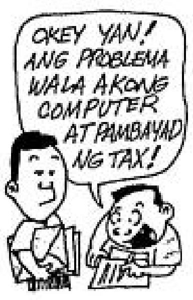
Solon defends JDV on Ani impeachment case

STORY ON PAGE A2

Avoid queues, file tax returns thru Internet


OKEY YAN! ANG PROBLEMA WALA AKONG COMPUTER AT PAMBAYAD NG TAX!

By D. Pazzibugan

FILIPINOS can add one more item to the long list of transactions they can make on the Internet.

AVOID/A17

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TODAY IN THE

- Gina Alajar to spend Valentine's alone
- Unusual love story of Crispin Beltran

'Marcos wasn't like that'

GMA reaps whirlwind of outrage on remarks against war games' foes

OUTRAGE and scorn yesterday swamped President Macapagal-Arroyo as a result of her tough talk against critics of the RP-US Balikatan 02-1.

"No President of the Philippines, and we have had 13 of them, had ever dared say that any Filipino who happens to disagree with the President is not a Filipino," Sen. Joker Arroyo of the ruling Lakas said in a three-paragraph statement in his own handwriting.

"Not even (the late strongman Ferdinand) Marcos denied any of his opponents their birthright," Arroyo said.

"Is this the measure of the President's IQ or that of her advisers?"

Other lawmakers as well as members of militant groups assailed the President for the remarks that she made Friday at her weekly press conference and that mimicked the either-or message of US President George W. Bush shortly after the Sept. 11 terror attacks in the United States.

She had said that those opposed to the RP-US war games set to start on Feb. 15 were "not Filipinos" and were "Abu Sayyaf lovers"—a seeming take-off on Bush's warning to foreign governments that those reluctant to join the US-led war on terrorism were on the side of terrorists.

"To say that being anti-Balikatan is anti-Filipino is the height of arrogance. It is reducing the issue to a very simplistic definition," said an "aghast" Akbayan Rep. Etta Rosales.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel said it was "unfair and inaccu-

MARCOS/A18

DENNIS SABANGAN

UMBRELLAS OF ZAMBOANGA
Before the ceremonial tee off of Golf for Peace in Mindanao at the Zamboanga City golf course on Saturday, "umbrella" girls give US soldier Jim Thompson the eye.

Best rattan weaver in town is blind

By Melvin Gascon
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

SOLANO, Nueva Vizcaya—In the remote mountain village of Comonal here, a basket weaver has captured the admiration of the barangay folk with his fine quality rattan products, his colorful personality and a benevolent heart for sharing his weaving skills.

Rogelio Buhong, 31, "Luh-hi" to his friends and relatives, is the sole proprietor, laborer, collection agent and instructor of a small-scale rattan industry in this town.

Yet, he is blind.

Luh-hi greets our group with the usual warmth of rural hospitality, though he doesn't know who we are.

"*Dumanon kayo apo, umuneg kayo ta umay kayo agtugaw* (Please come in and have a seat)," he says.

BEST/A17

MELVIN GASCON / PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

IN THE dark but all-knowing Rogelio Buhong in his rattan business where he's its sole proprietor, laborer, collection agent and instructor.

Signing of Balikatan rules postponed again

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan and Christine Herrera

THE SIGNING of the terms of reference (TOR) for the RP-US Balikatan 02-1 has been postponed, although Philippine officials do not consider it a setback.

Rigoberto Tiglao, spokesperson for President Macapagal-Arroyo, yesterday said the US side had "added a few words" to the document that Philippine officials approved last week. "But we don't see any major contentious issue," he said.

In a separate interview, National Security Adviser Roilo Golez said they expected the controversial training exercise to start as scheduled on Feb. 15.

"We don't see any problem. It's just a matter of semantics," he said, adding that the new draft containing the US-proposed changes was "acceptable" to Vice President and Foreign Secretary Teofisto Guingona Jr.

Tiglao said the signing could be held today, Sunday. Golez said it would probably happen "next week."

The document was to have been signed Friday night in a teleconference between Philippine and US officials led by Guingona and US Secretary of State Colin Powell. Instead, the Cabinet oversight committee on security discussed the Philippine government's response to the changes proposed by the US side.

Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo presided over the meeting in Guingona's behalf.

Victoriano Lecaros, spokesperson for the Department of Foreign Affairs, yesterday said preparations for the teleconference were underway.

But nothing is final regarding the time and date, or who, apart from Guingona and Powell, will be part of the negotiations.

"What I am sure of is that the teleconference is not to take place (Saturday) or (Sunday). We wait Monday," Lecaros told the INQUIRER. "This will depend entirely on the

SIGNING/A18

Boy enchanted as GMA grants his wishes

By Christine Avendaño

"A LIFETIME is measured not by time but by memories."

It happened to 9-year-old Jerome Baltazar yesterday.

His memories were made in dreamland as he finally got to meet the white-haired and bespectacled man they called the Wizard and a woman whom he had seen a lot on television.

The Wizard is the mascot of the Laguna-based theme park, Enchanted Kingdom, and the woman just happened to be President Macapagal-Arroyo who both took time off to visit Jerome at his hospital bed at the Philippine Children's Medical Center in Quezon City.

Jerome is sick with lymphoma, a cancer of the lymph nodes. But he had never stopped dreaming and wishing. He wished to meet Ms Macapagal and to be at Enchanted Kingdom.

His wishes came true, thanks to the Wizard and a pirate and the President, of course.

And the hospital, too, was granted an unspoken wish.

The President provided the children's medical center with a P1-million endowment to pay for the chemotherapy treatments of Jerome and the other children there.

Jerome who has a visibly large mass on the right side of his neck needs more than P30,000 for his six-month chemotherapy treatment.

But more good memories were coming up. Jerome also got two of his other wishes granted when Ms Macapagal gifted him with a television set and a toy set of doctor's equipment.

"The children here in your room will be your patients," the President told Jerome; who wishes to become a doctor when he grows up.

Ms Macapagal also gave Jerome P1,000

BOY/A18

EDWIN BACASMAS

MEMORIES are made of these for 9-year-old, cancer-stricken Jerome Baltazar whose wishes were granted by a gift-bearing President Macapagal at the Philippine Children Medical Center in Quezon City.

Second FRONT PAGE

HWAG MO DAW IDAMAY SI JOE!

'BARKING UP THE WRONG TREE'

Solon hits back at Ani's accuser

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

LAWYER Ernesto Francisco Jr., the complainant in the impeachment case against Ombudsman Aniano Desierto, is losing his credibility in directing his attack on Speaker Jose de Venecia, defenders of the Speaker said yesterday.

As legislators prepare to vote on Desierto's fate, Francisco has demanded that De Venecia be investigated for allegedly stopping the 1997 House probe of the Petron tax credit scam and of "maneuvering" the justice committee vote that dismissed the first impeachment complaint against Desierto.

"Francisco is way out of line. He's attacking left and right so he's now losing credibility," said Surigao del Norte Rep. Robert Ace Barbers, who was one of those who supported Francisco's impeachment complaint.

Barbers said Francisco's accusations against De Venecia were "unfounded and baseless," noting he was basing it partly on the statement of former undercover agent Mary Ong.

"He's barking up the wrong tree. He should stick to Desierto," Barbers said.

Francisco should pursue his complaint against Desierto without having to damage the institution of the House, the congressman said.

"He should not conduct a witch-hunt," Barbers said.

It was not true that the Speaker stopped the House investigation of the Petron scam, he said.

"It merely ran out of time since the (10th Congress) had adjourned and we were in the thick of the 1998 election campaign," Barbers said.

"Francisco is lucky that the Speaker is kind, otherwise he could have been slapped with a libel suit," Barbers said.

House spokesperson Noel Albano said Francisco's charges were "self-serving and irresponsible," and meant to influence the voting—expected on Tuesday or Wednesday—on the justice committee report dismissing the impeachment complaint for bribery against Desierto.

On charges that the Speaker aborting the Petron scam investigation, Albano said the principal accuser, then Rep. Rene Diaz, has denied that De Venecia had stopped it.

"Because of the committee findings, the first plunder case in the country was filed and successfully prosecuted and led to the conviction for plunder, the first in the country, of a Bureau of Internal Revenue official," Albano quoted Diaz, who is not presidential adviser for Central Luzon, as saying.

Diaz said the House investigation paved the way for the system of having tax payments paid directly to designated banks being instituted.

"This is a major reform in the tax collection system to reduce corruption in the BIR," Diaz added.

In the second charge of maneuvering the committee vote on the Desierto impeachment complaint, Francisco had cited Ong as having volunteered the information that she overheard De Venecia during a Bulung-Pulungan media forum proudly telling Desierto: "I told you. No need to worry. There, 35-5."

Albano said Ong, who was a guest at the forum, had misinterpreted the Speaker who was "merely announcing" the result of the voting.

He said most of the 20 or so journalists who attended the forum called up the Speaker to attest that he did not say what Ong claimed.

"It would have been the height of indiscretion and certainly it would have led to an uproar from the 20 or so editors, columnists and other journalists who (were there) if Speaker De Venecia made such a statement as Ms Ong alleged," Albano said.

Tax probe to take 3 more months

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE TASK Force 156 has said it will need at least three months to wrap up its fact-finding investigation of the tax credit certificates scam, particularly the probe of the Chingkoe Group which allegedly fraudulently obtained P2.3 billion worth of tax credit certificates.

The task force's Gil Abejo and its lawyers met with Ombudsman Aniano Desierto on Friday to explain why they could not complete the investigation in one month.

Abejo instead promised to submit the formal complaints and evidence against the 11 Chingkoe companies and Petron and Pilipinas Shell executives in May.

Desierto cited the difficulty of compiling and collating voluminous pieces of evidence covering import and export transactions as well as certifications from different government agencies.

The task force has so far managed to file only a one complaint against a Chingkoe group firm, the Diamond Knitting Corp. on Dec. 13. It is now undergoing preliminary investigation by the Ombudsman's office.

To speed up the probe, the Ombudsman's office has authorized the task force to fully investigate—involving fact-finding and evidence-gathering—the Chingkoe group as Ombudsman probers were "too tied up" with the cases against jailed ex-President Joseph Estrada and others.

His office would just concentrate on the quasi-judicial process of preliminary investigation after receiving the comprehensive report and complaints, together with the evidence, from Task Force 156, Desierto said.

Prior to Desierto's order, Ombudsman probers, particularly the Ombudsman Fact-Finding and Intelligence Bureau (EPIB), had been involved in the fact-finding and evidence-gathering aspect of the tax scam probe.

Desierto yesterday also commented on Misamis Oriental Rep. Oscar Moreno's claim that his office had failed to file plunder complaints against the respondents in the 175 tax credit cases pending with the Sandiganbayan.

He explained that had his office filed a plunder case, it would have been dismissed outright by the court and would have prejudiced all 175 cases, which have a common accused, former finance undersecretary Antonio Belicena.

"The essential elements of the amassing of wealth by the respondent public officials—like bank accounts or assets—were absent. A crime involving more than P50 million does not necessarily translate to a plunder case. There must be a showing that the series of overt or criminal acts were done to illegally amass wealth. We have to prove first that he accumulated P50 million. We only know that he caused injury to the government," the Ombudsman said.

Desierto said Moreno should not tell the Ombudsman's office how to handle criminal cases.

"He is not a trial or criminal lawyer but a bank lawyer," he said.

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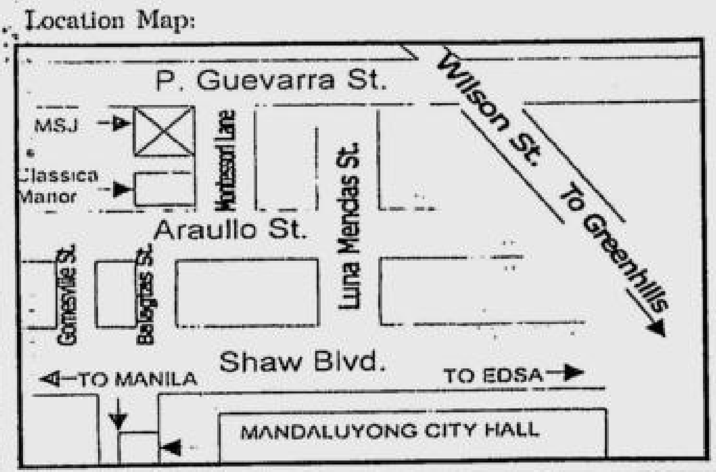

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Saguisag threatens to quit Erap cases

By Volt Contreras

LAWYER Rene Saguisag has formally informed the Sandiganbayan of his intention to withdraw as counsel of deposed President Joseph Estrada because of the court's plan to hold more frequent hearings.

Saguisag asked the court in a motion that he be allowed to withdraw from the plunder and illegal use of alias cases, "given our all too human conditions."

But in a phone interview, Saguisag indicated that his quitting would depend on whether the special Sandiganbayan court would go through with its plan of hearing the Estrada cases three—to be increased to five—days a week.

"We (defense lawyers) are being treated like schoolboys," he said. "What gives (the court) the right to disrespect our other commitments (to other clients)?"

Another defense counsel, retired Justice Serafin Cuevas, said he and the other Estrada lawyers were "contemplating resignation" but have not made a "final decision."

On the phone, Cuevas expressed surprise that Saguisag had already informed the court.

Estrada's lawyers said they could not comply with a schedule that is tighter than the current twice-a-week hearings because they are also handling cases before other courts.

"I will die at that pace," Saguisag said in Filipino.

His motion was actually an appeal to the court to reconsider its Feb. 6 ruling denying the defense panel's motion to quash the illegal use of an alias case.

Saguisag asked the court to cancel Estrada's Feb. 13 arraignment for the illegal alias case and for a second charge of perjury.

But much of the 9-page pleading consisted of a "friendly warning" to the court should it force the defense lawyers to attend hearings three to five days a week.

Saguisag said enforcing such a schedule "would amount to gross misconduct, grave oppression and actionable dereliction of duty to other courts and clients on our part, insensitive abandonment by this Honorable Court of its duty to other litigants, a cavalier disregard of common sense, and a gross violation of rules and established practice."

SSS hike blamed on execs' excesses

By Juliet L. Javellana

"THE INCOMPETENCE and excesses of top SSS officials will once again take their toll on the pockets of the pension fund's members."

With these words, Surigao del Norte Rep. Robert Ace Barbers, chair of the House committee on accounts, assailed yesterday the proposed plan of the Social Security System to raise membership contributions in order to stave off the fund's bankruptcy by the year 2015.

In a statement, Barbers said, "Again the lack of creative thinking by these officials is reflective of their inability to solve the institution's current problem of depleting funds without resorting to raising premium contributions."

Barbers said that instead of raising members' dues, the SSS should stop its "wasteful spending" on executive perks and extravagant Christmas parties.

"A better course of action would be (for SSS officials) to focus their attention on conceptualizing a sound financial policy that would maximize the yields of its invested funds, instead of engaging in behest transactions detrimental to its members," Barbers said.

Barbers was referring to the purchase by the SSS and the Government Service Insurance System of highly speculative Belle Corp. shares using the pensions' funds at the alleged behest of former President Joseph Estrada.

The transaction became the basis for the plunder charge against Estrada now being heard by the Sandiganbayan.

Barbers noted that the House good government committee is investigating the excessive salaries, multimillion-peso Christmas bonuses and lavish parties thrown by SSS officials.

He said these are not what the pension fund members want their contributions spent on.

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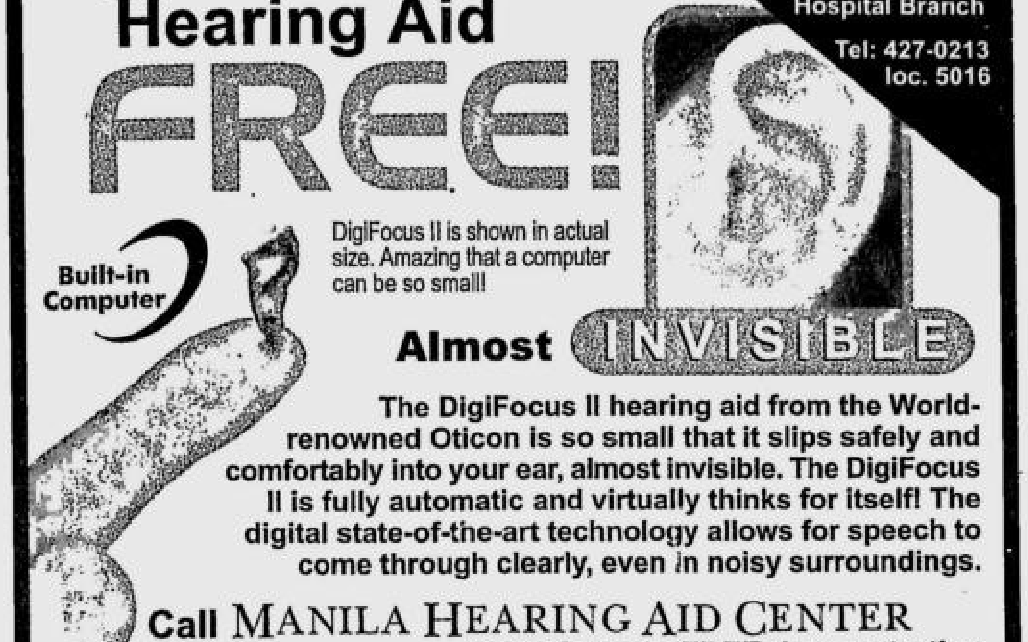

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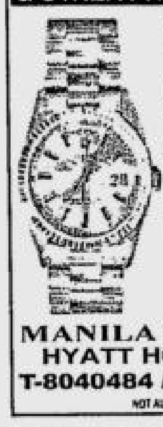

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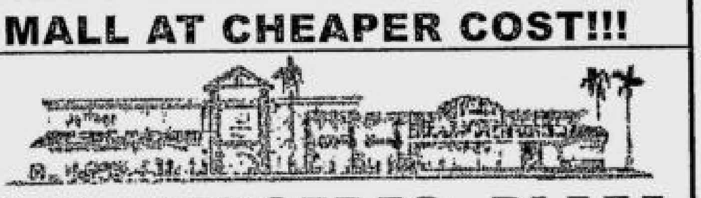

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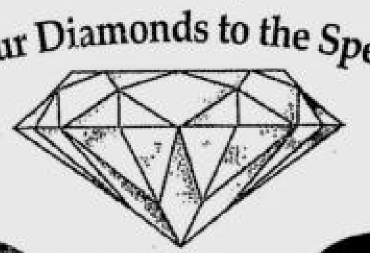

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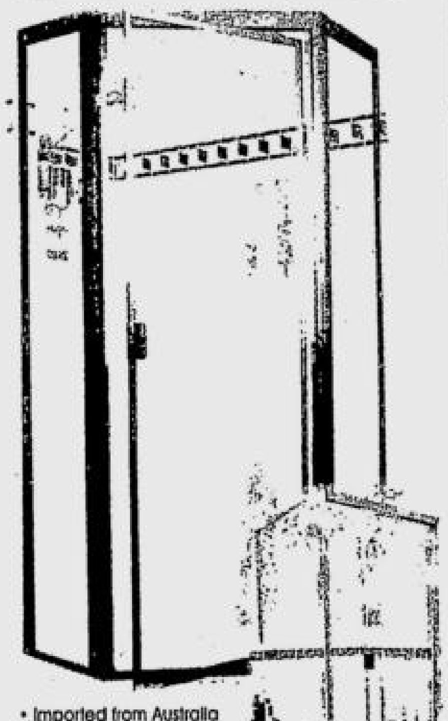

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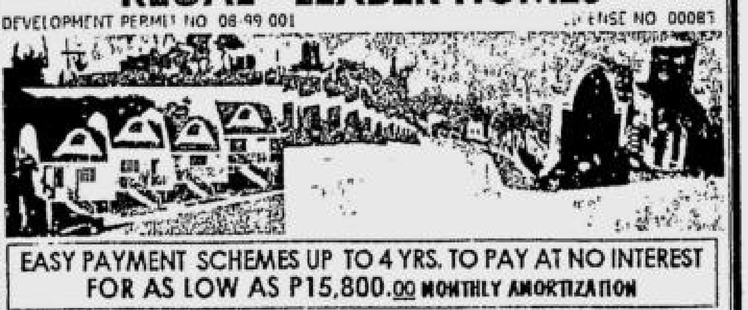

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FRATERNITIES AND LETRAN DISCIPLINE

DECS Order No. 20 s. 1991 bans fraternities and sororities, especially in the elementary and high school levels. Yet despite all these, we have the celebrated cases of Lenny Villa of Ateneo, Vicente Cirio of PMI, Mark Roland Martin of UP and Seth Lopez of De la Salle. What do they have in common? They are all victims of violent fraternity hazing. It is as if the schools become a venue of promoting a culture of violence.

This is today's dilemma for all schools. Fraternities and sororities are the "in" thing. Hazing, as their rite of initiation, sometimes becomes violent resulting in death.

Colegio de San Juan de Letran, in its four centuries of existence is now faced with the same problem of fraternities. The more you suppress them, the more they go underground. Recognition of their status as a student organization seems the only way so that their activities can be scrutinized and supervised.

This recognition has proven to be a boon for Letran. Unusual happenings are monitored so that the students' safety is assured.

Letran has prevented many untoward accidents from happening because of this policy. Suspected hazings are investigated, apparent neophytes are given medical check-ups to find out if violence was committed on their person, parents are notified in writing, individual conferences are held and the students are given a chance to explain their side, also in writing.

Most times in the secondary level, the Prefect of Discipline and his assistant would give the sanction of dismissal only rather than expulsion which is more harsh as it bans students from admission in other schools thus destroying their future.

The right to appeal is inherent in the whole process of disciplinary action in Letran. The court of last resort in the Colegio, the Father Rector and President is foremost a priest and only secondary a school administrator. His pastoral orientation gives him the shepherding instinct so that a boy's future has more weight for him than the burden of sanctions for infraction of regulations. Thus, justice and equity is practiced and compassion becomes a hallmark of the Dominican brand of discipline.

Letran is a Dominican school where Dominican spirituality prevails. Its symbol is the knight who reaches his goal because of discipline and a strict training in the refinements of gallantry and brotherhood.

Fraternities with their violent hazing practices are contrary to the Letran ideals of *DEUS, PATRIA, LETRAN*—God, Country and Letran. Acts of violence do not make a man, much more create a gentleman out of him. The bond that gives rise to real brotherhood is not achieved through how much physical pain the neophyte can endure but through a culture of love and respect and self-sacrifice so that others may live and grow.

This is the Letran "*animo*"—the spirit that gave our country four presidents: Aguinaldo, Quezon, Osmeña and Laurel and 80% of the heroes of the Philippine Revolution: Apolinario Mabini, Gregorio del Pilar, Artemio Ricarte and many others. Today the Letran "*animo*" lives on in EDSA II in the likes of Chavit Singson, Leonard de Vera and Pastor Saycon. It animates leaders in business and industry like Francisco Eizmendi, Jr., Vicente Ayllon and big names in the arts like the late Rolando Tinio. Letran even has a saint among its graduates, St. Vicente Liem de la Paz.

Letran is proud of them. They typify the kind of Letranite that is formed to be leaders of tomorrow. They are products of Dominican spirituality and discipline.

That is why violent hazing in fraternities and Letran ideals, like oil and water, do not mix.

ARRIBA LETRAN!

US wants to probe Malaysian terror suspect

By Norman Bordadora

UNITED States authorities are keen to conduct their own investigation of Azmi bin Salleh, the Malaysian arrested at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport on Thursday with $57,000 and 104 Malaysian passports believed to be intended for members of the Jemaah Islamiya terrorist group now on the run in Southeast Asia.

A highly placed source at the PNP Aviation Security Group said US Embassy officials have asked if they could interview Azmi personally.

Azmi has been turned over to the Bureau of Immigration and IS now detained at the bureau's offices.

Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo and PNP-ASG Chief Supt. Marcelo said authorities have received information that Azmi is one of the top officials of suspected terrorist Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida terrorist network in Southeast Asia. He is reportedly the al-Qaida's finance officer in the region.

"The US Embassy officials also wanted to take a look at the passports and the cash recovered from the suspect," the airport police officer said.

Azmi has denied any involvement with any terrorist group. He said that he was a travel agent and that the passports were for his clients. But he reportedly failed to explain satisfactorily the large amount of cash and the fake travel documents that he was carrying for "his clients."

Azmi was arrested as he tried to board a Kuwaiti Airlines flight bound for Bangkok last Thursday.

Officials said he was still being investigated and did not know if he would be charged.

In Kuala Lumpur, Malaysian authorities said yesterday they would work closely with Philippine officials investigating Azmi.

Malaysia's Deputy Prime Minister, Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, said police would work with their counterparts to determine if Azmi, 42, was just a travel agent as claimed.

"I was told he went to Manila to take (pilgrimage) visas," Abdullah was quoted by the Bernama news agency as saying.

"That's as far as I know for now, and police are still investigating if there are other related issues (to his arrest)."

Malaysian deputy police chief Mohamad Jamil Johari said Malaysian and Philippine police would work together to ensure Azmi was really a Malaysian citizen and to investigate his "true intentions of going to the Philippines."

The Malaysian foreign ministry said yesterday early investigations confirmed all the passports in Azmi's possession were valid and that he was in Manila only to procure visas for Malaysians wanting to make a pilgrimage to Mecca.

"So far, he has been found to have no links with any international militant group," the ministry said in a statement released to Bernama.

"However, Malaysian security forces are carrying out further investigations on this case."

The ministry said the bearded Kuala Lumpur resident was scheduled to be charged Monday for violating Philippine customs regulations, which set a $10,000 limit to the amount of foreign currency that can be taken out of the country.

Malaysian ambassador to the Philippines Taufik Mohammed Noor on Friday denied that Azmi was involved in terrorist activities.

He claimed Azmi was trying to circumvent regulations which require prospective Malaysian pilgrims to obtain their visas in Kuala Lumpur in line with a country quota imposed by authorities in Saudi Arabia.

The Organization of Islamic Conference limits the number of pilgrims each year to only one percent of a country's population.

Malaysia has a majority Muslim population. ***With a report from AFP***

Gloria sees Camacho confirmation

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo remains confident that Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho will be confirmed despite getting dragged into the "Peace Bonds" controversy.

"The President is confident that Camacho will be confirmed," her spokesperson, Rigoberto Tiglao, said.

He said the President is trying to convince lawmakers into confirming his appointment.

"You cannot railroad the Commission on Appointments. What the President is doing is to explain to Congress why Camacho should be confirmed. It's long overdue," he said.

He, however, could not confirm if the President asked Speaker Jose de Venecia to talk to CA members on her behalf.

"I am not sure if he is talking to the congressmen... (But) it's not unusual or surprising for him to try to convince his colleagues to confirm Camacho," Tiglao said.

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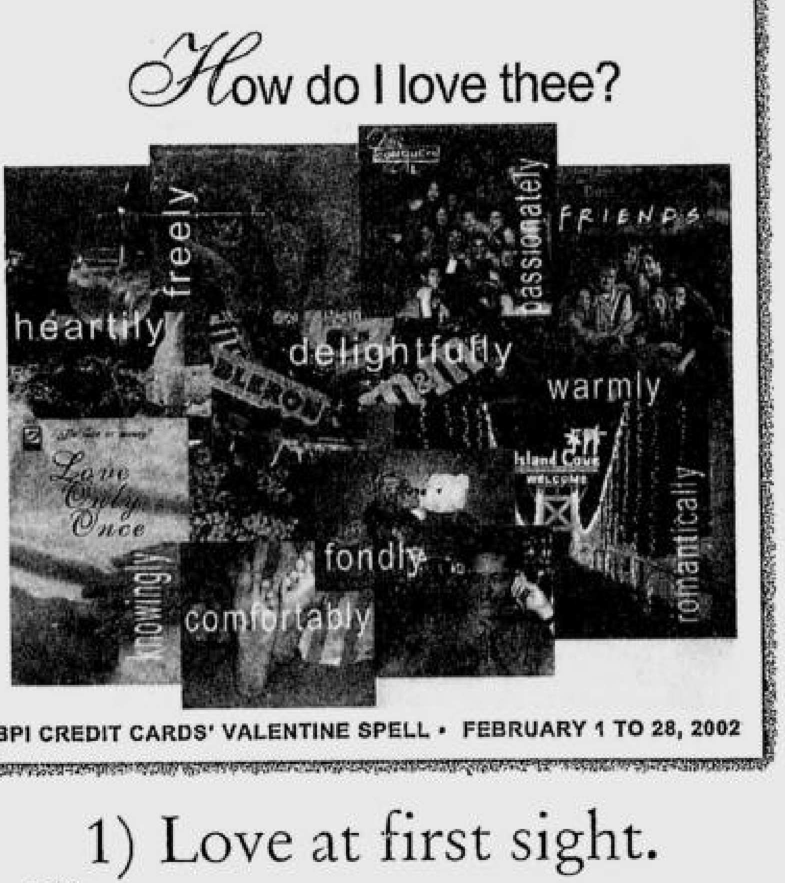

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Gloria acts on DFA turf war; Guingona calling the shots

By Dona Pazzibugan

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday delineated the functions of Vice President and Foreign Secretary Teofisto Guingona Jr. and his purported "shadow," Roberto Romulo.

The President acknowledged for the first time reports of a rift between the two officials.

"It is better that I clear up the differentiation of functions between Secretary Guingona and Bobby Romulo because they are saying there is a shadow Department of Foreign Affairs," she said.

"No, there isn't," she said in her weekly program, "May Gloria ang Bukas Mo."

She said it was still Guingona running the foreign affairs department.

As foreign secretary, Guingona was responsible for the country's relations with other countries, the President said.

He is also in charge of appointing ambassadors and consuls.

Romulo, on the other hand, is responsible for the country's "economic diplomacy," she said.

She said Romulo was helping her to promote the country before the international business community.

Romulo was foreign secretary during the Ramos administration.

He also heads the e-Asean Task Force.

Ms Macapagal named Romulo senior adviser on international competitiveness shortly after assuming office.

She confirmed yesterday that Romulo set up her International Board of Advisers, composed of some of the world's top business executives.

Guingona refused to comment on reports that he resented Romulo's meddling in the DFA's affairs, for which the latter had earned the sobriquet "Sikatuna."

Romulo has denied meddling in Guingona's turf.

Ms Macapagal yesterday also defended her acquiring an international board of advisers.

"They get no payment. In fact, they are willing to visit the Philippines to have a meeting here at their own expense because they can afford it," she said.

The board of advisers recently recommended that she hire former New York Mayor Rudolph Guiliani as an anti-crime consultant.

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Balikatan benefits cited; no haven for terrorists

ZAMBOANGA CITY—More than the military benefits, the counter-terrorism training exercise involving US and Philippine troops will serve as a warning to terrorists that they will not find a haven in Southeast Asia, a top Filipino general said yesterday.

The maneuvers, called "Balikatan," will eventually involve 660 American troops—including 160 Special Forces members—who will observe Filipino soldiers in combat zones battle the Muslim extremist group, Abu Sayyaf, on the southern island of Basilan.

"The long-term benefits are intangible," said Maj. Gen. Glicerio Sua, who heads the Philippine military force waging a large-scale assault against the rebels.

"It's the message that there is now a partnership against international terrorism and the terrorists will not have a place in the Philippines or anywhere in the region," Sua said.

The arrest in Manila last month of an Indonesian, Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi, indicated efforts by groups linked to the al-Qaida network of Osama bin Laden to establish a Southeast Asian base, specifically in Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and the Philippines, Sua said.

A foreign diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the US recently relayed information it had gathered in Afghanistan to Malaysia, Singapore and the Philippines regarding terrorist suspects.

US logistical help and the war drills will help the Philippine military improve its capability to track the Abu Sayyaf guerrillas, who constantly run and hide in Basilan's lush mountain jungles, while the American troops will learn from the Filipinos' long combat experience in tropical jungles, Sua said.

The Abu Sayyaf are holding American missionary couple Martin and Gracia Burnham and Filipino nurse Deborah Yap hostage from a kidnapping spree that started last May.

In an interview with Reuters, National Security Adviser Roilo Golez admitted the Abu Sayyaf, which numbers a few hundred men, was the biggest security threat to the Philippines.

Communist guerrillas and kidnap-for-ransom gangs were the next big security problem, Golez said in the Friday interview.

Filipino businessmen have said the overall perception that crime was rampant and the military could not neutralize the Abu Sayyaf threat were the main reasons for dwindling investments in the country.

"The Abu Sayyaf is the biggest threat because of their impact on the economy. That is the reason we now have this joint exercise with the US military," Golez said.

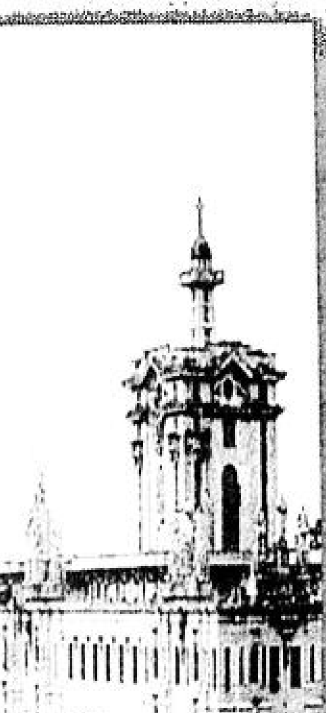
Muslim separatist groups like the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and factions of the Moro National Liberation Front, both of which are much larger than the Abu Sayyaf, were less of a threat, Golez said.

"We have a 1996 peace agreement with the MNLF, but the only problem now is the so-called Misuari breakaway group that is causing some problems," he said.

The MILF, which refused to accept the 1996 peace deal, is engaged in peace talks with the government although there have been intermittent clashes with Philippine troops.

"We have a ceasefire agreement with the MILF where they will even help us in the fight against criminality in some areas," Golez said.

He said no "organizational alliance" among the three groups exists and any incidents in Basilan where MILF members were said to have helped the Abu Sayyaf were individual militants helping relatives and friends. *AP, Reuters*



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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, February 10, 2002
5th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Is 58:7-10

Thus says the Lord:

Fast by sharing your food with the hungry, bring to your house the homeless, clothe the one you see naked and do not turn away from your own kin.

Then will your light will break forth as the dawn and your healing come in a flash.

Your righteousness will be your vanguard, the Glory of Yahweh your rearguard.

Then you will call and Yahweh will answer, you will cry and he will say, I am here.

If you remove from your midst the yoke, the clenched fist and the wicked word, if you share your food with the hungry and give relief to the oppressed, then your light will rise in the dark, your night will be like noon.

2nd Reading: 1 Cor 2:1-5

When I came, my brothers and sisters, to reveal to you the mystery of God's plan I did not count on eloquence or on a show of learning. I was determined not to know anything among you but Jesus, the Messiah, and a crucified Messiah. I myself came weak, fearful and trembling; my words and preaching were not brilliant or clever to win listeners. It was, rather, a demonstration of spirit and power, so that your faith might be a matter, not of human wisdom, but of God's power.

Gospel: Mt 5:13-16

Jesus said to his disciples, "You are the salt of the earth. But if salt has lost its strength, how can it be made salty again? It has become useless. It can only be thrown away and people will trample on it.

You are the light of the world. A city built on a mountain cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and covers it; instead it is put on a lampstand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine before others, so that they may see the good you do and praise your Father in heaven."

Commentary

Salt was the basic seasoning for people in ancient time, before other flavorings and condiments were used, not that salt gave taste to food, but that it brought out the taste from within. But more than being a "taste-bringer," salt was valued more for being a preservative as there was no other way, then, of storing and preserving food.

The Christian community is regarded as the salt of this world. In the midst of the turmoil and agitation that the world experiences, in its frenzy for wealth and progress, it is the Christian community, not only the individual Christian, that preserves the world's sanity to focus on what is essential and lasting. All things will pass but the Christian community has set its heart on that which does not change—and this preserves the world.

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Scribes face kidnap threat

ISABELA CITY—Foreign journalists covering the joint US-Philippine military operations against the Abu Sayyaf face the threat of being kidnapped by the group, the military warned Saturday.

"Military intelligence reports show the Abu Sayyaf will abduct foreign journalists—Caucasians—covering the war games in Basilan," said Capt. Harold Cabunoc, commander of the elite Philippine Scout Rangers which is hunting the rebel-cum-bandit group.

Cabunoc said the military was discouraging foreign journalists from venturing out of this Basilan capital city to cover the operations against the Abu Sayyaf.

The group has been linked to the al-Qaida network of Osama bin Laden, suspected mastermind of the Sept. 11 terror attacks on the United States.

Some 660 US troops will join local soldiers in training exercises in the southern Philippines, which will include joint operations against the Abu Sayyaf in Basilan.

More than 100 journalists have descended on nearby Zamboanga City to cover the operations against the Abu Sayyaf who are holding an American missionary couple and a Filipino nurse hostage from their last kidnapping spree which began last May.

During a similar kidnapping incident involving foreigners on the southern island of Jolo in 2000, the Abu Sayyaf abducted several foreign and local journalists who were covering the story and held them for ransom.

"The threat of abduction of foreign journalists is serious," Cabunoc said, adding "the rebels will even kill the local escorts of journalists just to abduct them." *AFP*

Moro rebels vow to rescue Korean

ZAMBOANGA CITY—A leader of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front ordered his forces to recover a South Korean and his Filipino partner from the hands of Muslim kidnappers yesterday.

Ghadzali Jaafar, vice chair of the MILF, said he ordered his guerrillas "to take possession of the hostages and turn them over to the government."

Jaafar said this was part of "confidence-building measures" for the peace talks it has opened with the government.

However, a military spokesperson expressed skepticism over the MILF statement that they would help resolve the abduction of South Korean Yoon Jae-kun, 43, who was seized with a Filipino companion by Muslim gunmen, believed to be MILF guerrillas in Sarangani on Wednesday.

Maj. Noel Detoyato said the MILF claims of helping stop kidnappings were "lip service that they have been saying even in previous incidents."

"Six years ago, they already said (the MILF would stop kidnappings) and yet kidnapping continued," Detoyato said.

The military is trying to confirm reports that the kidnappers are seeking $2 million for the release of the South Korean and the Filipino, a hotel owner. *AFP*

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US cargo plane grounded

ZAMBOANGA CITY—A US airforce cargo plane, bringing personnel and equipment for the joint US-Philippine military exercise in the south, suffered a breakdown in one engine and was stranded overnight here Saturday, military officials said.

The mammoth C-17 plane, carrying 10 US servicemen and some equipment, had just landed at the Zamboanga International Airport when smoke was seen coming from one of its four engines, a military official said on condition of anonymity.

The passengers and cargo were unloaded safely but the plane was forced to remain at the airport while repairs are going on, said local military operations chief, Col. Roland Detabali.

Detabali would not specify what happened to the plane except to say it was suffering from "technical problems."

Tight security including the use of armored vehicles, was imposed on the airport to guard the huge plane while it is here, Detabali added.

US cargo planes have been making frequent visits to this southern city to bring in troops and equipment for six-month joint military exercises between Philippine and US troops. *AFP*

SEC, BSP blamed for Unitrust collapse

By Rocky Nazareno

FOOT-DRAGGING by officials of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas allowed fraudulent schemes victimizing small investors to flourish, as in the G. Cosmos pyramiding scam which led to the collapse of the Unitrust Bank, according to the initial findings of a Senate investigation.

"What's hard to accept is that the SEC turned a blind eye to the sales blitz of G. Cosmos and did not really take up the interest of small investors *motu propio* (on their own initiative)," said Sen. Ralph Recto, chair of the Senate trade and commerce committee.

The committee is investigating the multimillion-peso investment scam allegedly perpetrated by the Japanese Gengko Ogami through the operations of his G. Cosmos enterprise.

In its defense, the SEC said it had been focused on big issues from the time that G. Cosmos was registered in 1999 up to the period when huge billboards emblazoned with Ogami's portrait began appearing along Edsa and other major thoroughfares.

"One year and nine months passed before the SEC lifted a finger toward monitoring the activities of G. Cosmos, contrary to its basic mandate to protect the investing public and promote the development of the capital markets," Recto said.

Under questioning, SEC officials admitted that the first inspection order was issued only on May 28, 2001, long after it received a letter of complaint from an investor.

"It only emphasized all the more the SEC's preference to look at headline issues like the Best World scam and other securities involving huge investors or big institutions and merely look the other way when money from small Filipino investors are involved," Recto said.

He pointed out that there were 5,718 names without addresses listed in G. Cosmos's book of investors.

These investors paid an entrance fee of P5,000 each and about P3,000 a month for an average of three months.

Recto surmised that G. Cosmos may have also been used to launder dirty money.

"The list could contain non-existent persons along with actual living victimized investors who would be transformed into the key machinery for the entry of dirty money here," Recto said.

Ogami earlier claimed that he had raised P500 million from unverified Japanese sources to buy the Unitrust Bank, a small thrift bank. The bank was ordered closed by the BSP in early January after an ownership dispute between Ogami and some of his partners triggered a run that cost the bank roughly half of its deposits.

Recto said the Senate was looking into the possibility that G. Cosmos and its affiliates may have engaged in pyramiding, or the selling of unregistered securities, and money laundering.

"If the SEC and BSP won't act swiftly and their investigation reports remain inaccessible to the public, then more nefarious schemes would swindle our countrymen's hard-earned money," Recto said.

10 drown, 10 missing as riverboat sinks

By Edwin O. Fernandez
PDI Mindanao Bureau

COTABATO CITY—At least 10 persons, including three children, drowned while 10 others were declared missing after an overloaded riverboat sank in the treacherous Rio Grande de Mindanao in Maguindanao province on Friday.

The tragedy occurred at about 1:30 p.m. in the Kabuntalan town part of the river.

The boat carrying some 70 passengers—20 more than its normal load—was on its way to this city when it ran into a huge protruding log in the water and split in two.

The passengers were on their way home from Kabuntalan after attending prayers for a relative who had died a week earlier.

"The motorboat split in two after it hit a huge trunk in the water," said Datucolot Dagloc, spokesperson of Kabuntalan Mayor Salipungan Dagloc.

Dagloc, who lost relatives in the accident, said very strong underwater currents carried the victims away.

"The passengers, most of whom could not swim, grabbed at those who could, triggering chaos," Dagloc told radio station dxMS here.

The wood-hulled motorboat was built in 1995 and powered by a Mitsubishi Fuso Canter engine. It had no life jackets but empty gasoline containers that floated saved some of the passengers.

Dagloc said about 10 passengers, including six children aged 6 to 10 years, remained missing as of Saturday.

Six of those killed were identified as postal employee Kadting Dalamban, 40; Subaya Kalipod, 10; Minda Makalikod, 6; Asma Makalikod, 9; and Mamalinta Limpi and boat operator Ani Kasan, ages unknown.

Kabuntalan police chief SPO4 Datu Mariga and PO3 Ibara Abdula lead the search and rescue team that is still hoping to find survivors.

"They have been searching since Friday night and will continue to do so, both upstream and downstream," Dagloc said.

In May last year, seven people died when a motorboat capsized also in one of Kabuntalan's tributaries.

In the aftermath of an another tragedy, search and rescue teams have failed to find any more survivors in the sinking of the Sugar Diane-Z in rough seas near the Philippines' border with Malaysia about two weeks ago, the Coast Guard said.

Nine of the 37 passengers of the Sugar Diane-Z were rescued after it sank one day after setting off from Tawi-Tawi province on Jan. 27.

The Coast Guard corrected an earlier military report that said 70 people were aboard the ill-fated vessel.

A radio report from the boat said its engine had stalled and its hull was badly damaged by strong winds and big waves near Pangutaran island. ***With an AP report***

Airport workers to Alvarez: Don't use us

THE ALLIANCE of aviation workers and cause-oriented groups has accused Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez of using them to enhance his chances of being confirmed by the Commission on Appointments.

In a joint statement, the group calling itself the Scrap Piatco Deal Coalition (Scrap) said Alvarez made it appear that a proposed meeting between them and three Cabinet members to work out a "win-win" situation on their employment was his initiative.

Alvarez had announced that he and Secretaries Richard Gordon of tourism and Patricia Sto. Tomas of labor were meeting with the aviation workers and officials of Piatco to ensure that the workers would keep their jobs once airport operations are transferred to Naia 3.

"We don't want the forum to be used again by Mr. Alvarez for his personal motive of pursuing his confirmation at our expense," the Scrap statement said. "We have had enough of his empty promises, typical of a traditional politician. If he is really sincere, he could have done it when he was still a congressman. Why only now?"

But a spokesperson for Alvarez said the meeting was agreed upon by aviation workers in a recent dialogue. He said the meeting was originally scheduled on Wednesday last week and later postponed for last Friday. But the aviation workers again sought a postponement, this time for Wednesday, saying they still have to finalize the agenda for the meeting, the spokesperson said.

The spokesperson said last week's dialogue at restaurant near the Senate was even witnessed by Senate reporters.

The coalition is made up of aviation workers and cause-oriented groups opposed to the deal between the Department of Transportation and Communications and Piatco, the consortium that is building and will operate Naia 3.

The alliance had claimed that thousands of aviation workers stand to lose their jobs once the new terminal opens under the Piatco deal.

The statement was signed by Alex Barrientos, president of the Philippine Airlines Employees Association; Demosthenes Agan, president of the MWU (Miascor); Joshua Mata, president of the Alliance of Progressive Labor (APL); Le Jon de la Cruz, secretary general of Alab Katipunan; Felicisimo Carullo (national president of NCL/NAFLU; Ruperto Cruz of Pinoy Gumising Ka movement; Susan Pineda of the Central Luzon Alliance against Piatco; and Councilor Ireneo "Bong" Alvaro, PCL president, Angeles City chapter.

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EVEREADY

WARNING ON FAKE EVEREADY BATTERIES

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

On January 11, 2002, elements of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) - Intellectual Property Rights Division raided suspected distributors of counterfeit Eveready No. 1215 and 1250 Batteries in New Divisoria Mall, Binondo Manila. At about 6:00 p.m., the NBI agents served search warrants issued by the Regional Trial Court of Manila, Branch 1 on MING-MING'S MERCHANDISE or STALL HUG 17, STALL HUG 19, STALL HS 10 & 11, and TRADE-IN COMMERCIALS or STALL EUG 43-45 at the New Divisoria Mall, Binondo, Manila.

NBI operatives seized 4,912 pieces of fake size "AA" No. 1215 Eveready batteries and 828 pieces of fake No. 1250 batteries from MING - MING'S MERCHANDISE/STALL HUG 17; 17 cases of fake No. 1215 batteries and 40 cases of 1250 Eveready batteries were seized from STALL HUG 19; 552 pieces of fake No. 1250 batteries, 1,157 pieces of fake "AA" No. 1215 batteries from STALL HS 10; 27,660 pieces of fake "AA" No. 1215 batteries and 14 pieces of No.1250 batteries from STALL HS 11; and 180 pieces of fake No. 1250 batteries and 660 pieces of fake "AA" No. 1215 batteries from TRADE-IN COMMERCIALS / STALL EUG 43 & 45.

Energizer Philippines, Inc., is now preparing the necessary criminal, civil and administrative complaint-charges against the said establishments and the alleged owners / proprietors: SHIN TIAN ZHEN, SAMSON CO, LILY SIA TY, and JACKIE KONG and / or GONG. If convicted, they may face penalties of imprisonment from two (2) to five (5) years per charge of unfair competition and trademark infringement plus fines of P50,000.00 to P200,000.00 per conviction.

Energizer Philippines, Inc. is warning all establishments selling or distributing fake Eveready Products that it will not hesitate to bear down the full weight of the law on any party, individual or establishment engaged in the traffic of fake products.

PLATON MARTINEZ FLORES
SAN PEDRO & LEAÑO
Counsel for Energizer Philippines, Inc.
6/F Tuscan Bldg.,
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EVEREADY
SUPER HEAVY DUTY
New packaging now available.

WHO WANTS TO A BILLIONAIRE!
PINAKAMAGANDANG REGALO SA VALENTINES DAY

Congratulations!!! Naka-CLOSE ng DEAL P5 BILLION sa REAL ESTATE- pagkabili ng white Lucky Pyramid with face of Jesus kay Engr. MARGIE D. CENTENO sa EDSA Manuela Exhibit ng JC Herbal (4 yrs. ago)

MERON NG SOLUTION SA GRAFT & CORRUPTION!
Hindi sa kailangan magpatulo sa Bagong Taon. LUCKY PYRAMID • WISHING PLANT • FAITH IN GOD-[illegible]

Pinakamagandang Pampa-suwerte sa Bagong Taon!
May gamot na ang sakit sa Bulsa!
Goodluck sa Negosyo, trabaho,
Pag-ibig, Swerte sa LOTTO, Bingo, Atbp.
LUCKY PYRAMID
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WALA NA PO TAYONG EXHIBITS SA METRO MANILA DITO PO LAMANG MAKAKABILI SA JC HERBAL, (MAIN) Los Baños.
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CONGRATULATIONS!
Ms. MYRNA, empleyado ng House of Congress, ginupit ang ads sa diaryo, bumili ng Wishing Plant at nanalo ng P24 Million JACKPOT sa LOTTO.

Engr. MARGIE D. CENTENO
Young inventor of the Year 1990
one of the 10 Most Outstanding Inventor 1993

Security Guard sa Duty Free NANALO ng P23,000 sa MegaLotto Ginamit pampabinyag sa anak.
Dec. 05, 2001
NANALO ako ng P23,000.00 noong Dec 5, 2001. Ako ay taga Parañaque City (21-12-28-26-9-33) nagpapasalamat ako kay Engr. Margie D. Centeno lalung-lalo na kay Jesu Kristo. Salamat po! BALATO: P500
REYLAND D. CANETE
33- Banaba St. BF Homes Parañaque City

NANALO NG P100,00 SA BINGO
Jan. 7, 2002
I just cut the ads from Philippine Daily Inquirer last Dec. 30, 2001 and put it inside my wallet. Immediately after 4 days, I won P100,000.00 jackpot in Bingo at Festival mall last January 3 2002. BALATO:P100

Jan. 21, 2002
Ginupit ko lang, Tumama agad ako ng P2,000 sa karera. BALATO:P100
Ferdinand Juan
Blk-a Lot-01 8-29th St.
Villamor Airbase Pasay City

Congrats!!!
Nanalo ng P17 Million JACKPOT sa Lotto from Makati (nakabili ng P100 Marwood Pyramid & P200 Wishing Plant sa JC Herbal) MAGPATOTOO KA NAMAN PARA MARAMING MANIWALA
--ooOoo--
Congrats!!!
Gov't. Employee Ricardo M. ng Cagayan de Oro, NANALO NG JACKPOT sa Bingo ng P50,000.00 ginupit lang ang ads sa DAILY INQUIRER kinabukasan NANALO, NAKABAYAD SA UTANG.

NANALO ng P100,000 JACKPOT sa BINGO sa Waltermart, Calamba (Pinangtubos ng mga alahas at pinangtuition ng mga anak) BALATO: 0 (Nakabili ng BLACK Pyramid P300 sa JC Herbal)
Ako ay si Angie taga Sta. Cruz, Nanalo ako ng P100,000 sa Walter Mart noong 21 Jan. Binayad sa tuition ng anak ko.
-Angie
Nagmano kay Engr. CENTENO NANALO ng P100,000 sa Bingo sa Waltermart, Calamba ng makatabi kagabi sa Bingohan

Ako si Babes Pacot Ginuput ko lang sa Ads sa dyaryo ni Engr. Centeno- nanalo ako ng 3,500
Taga Luzon Balara
Quezon City
09194339941

Ako po si Mila M. Lavador na nagpapatotoo na ang Ate ko ay ginupit lang sa newspaper ang Lucky Pyramid at inipit sa wallet niya then nagtext siya sa akin na nakapag-close siya ng deal worth P1.5 M property sa Calamba, Laguna.
Mila Lavador
Sta. Rosa, Laguna

Feb. 2, 2002
Ginupit ko lang sa Peoples Journal at inilagay ko sa wallet ko at mula noon hindi nauubusan ng pera ang wallet ko.
Jo B.
Batangas City

Feb. 4, 2002
Napatunayan ko talaga na magaan ang dating ng pera simula ng gumamit ako ng Pyramid galing kay Engr. Centeno.
Thank you
Joy of Sto. Angel
Sta. Cruz Laguna

84 yrs. old na uugud-ugod na Lola NANALO ng P16,000 sa Jueteng!
Ako po si Arsenia Mia Mamanagi, nanalo po ako ng halagang P16,000 sa numerong ibinigay ni Engr. Centeno 22-34 noong 20 ng Enero. at ako ay nakatira sa E'ms Bo. Cp Vicente Lim Laguna.
Maraming Salamat sa ibinigay na tip sa akin ni Engr. Centeno. Ako rin po ay nagbigay ng Balatong haalgang (1,000) sa kanya

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Swerte mo'y Simulan na! Gupitin ang ADS na ito at ipit sa Check Book, Bank Book o Wallet

EUGENIA D. APOSTOL *Founding Chairman*

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OPINION

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Bonding

EDITORIAL

THE CONTROVERSY over the Poverty Eradication and Alleviation Certificates—the so-called PEACe bonds—can be reduced to four elemental issues.

The first—and most important—revolves around the question of adverse impact: Was the government short-changed when it sold the country's first-ever zero-coupon bonds on Oct. 16, 2001?

The answer is No. To appreciate the open-and-shut quality of this answer, however, it is necessary to review public debt in general and bonds in particular. It is not an easy topic to discuss; on many points, public finance is counter-intuitive. That is to say, it runs counter to an ordinary person's experience of money and economics.

A government makes ends meet by collecting taxes, imposing duties—and borrowing. Bonds are a preferred way of borrowing money; by and large, the money the government uses to finance big-ticket infrastructure projects—such as, say, a hundred-million-peso irrigation construction venture in Tarlac—comes from money raised through bond floats. The quality of a bond—from the point of view of the government as borrower—is measured by its marketability (will investors loan their money?) and its financial risks and rewards (did the borrower get the best possible rates?).

A zero-coupon bond means the borrower does not pay interest during the term of the debt; instead, the full amount of the loan is paid on maturity. For the government, therefore, a relatively new debt instrument like a zero-coupon offers the following advantages: money up front to spend on capital or other projects, and better cash-flow management during the term of the bond.

Were these conditions met in the Oct. 16 auction? Yes. The float was over-subscribed (bids totaling P137 billion came from a ready market). The effective interest rate was 12.75 percent, about a full percentage point better than the prevailing market rate. Thus, as National Treasurer Sergio Edeza explained last week, the bond float ended up saving the government a considerable amount of money, once the winning bid is compared with market rates prevailing at the time of the auction. INQUIRER columnist and University of the Philippines economics Prof. Solita Monsod estimates the savings to reach some P3 billion in borrowing costs.

But, some may ask, why borrow in the first place? This brings us to the second essential issue, the question of necessity. Did the government have to hold the auction at all? The answer is Yes. The assumption behind the question is that the government's borrowing on Oct. 16 was merely an accommodation for an influential, network-savvy group. But the government regularly borrows money, and a bond sale at that time of the year was already included in its capital-raising plan.

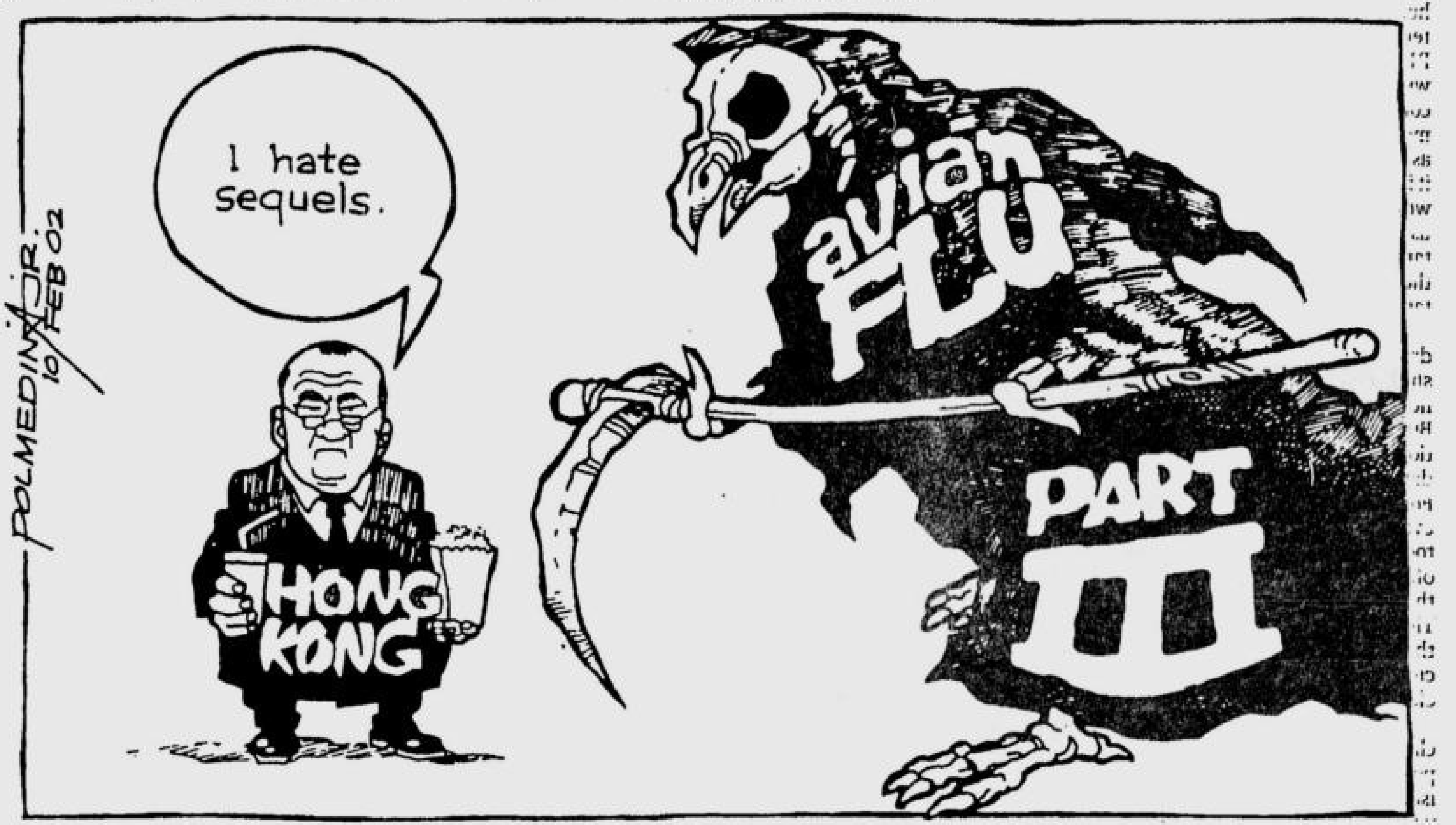
What about the magnitude of the loan itself? The numbers being bandied about by some of those opposed to the PEACe bonds, such as Sen. Tessie Aquino-Oreta, raise the third basic issue: the matter of proportion. Isn't there something fundamentally wrong when the government borrows P10 billion now and pays P35 billion 10 years hence?

The answer is No. The sense that there is something wrong is more instinct-based rather than factual, yet another proof of a general innumeracy. Consider this: Local banks only a few years ago offered "double-your-money" or "triple-your-money" promotions. The same principle, or perhaps even the same financial instrument, made those popular promos possible.

All that remains is the fourth elemental issue: Did Code-NGO, the umbrella network of some 2,500 non-government organizations, people's organizations and cooperatives which pioneered the zero-coupon bond in the country, peddle influence in order to "sweeten" the bonds, to use the word the Freedom from Debt Coalition used?

Much has been made, for instance, of the original plan to conduct a negotiated sale, as if this were proof of deception or duplicity. But a closer look reveals it for what it is: proof of the commitment of the group to use its proceeds from the bond sale for poverty alleviation projects. A public auction could not guarantee that.

But eventually a so-called Dutch auction was held, and the Code-NGO vision was vindicated. We see nothing wrong in that.



Cowering Cassandras

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

THE CURRENT alarums about the presence of American troops in our country as a derogation of our sovereignty leave me cold. I suspect that some of the protesters are merely posturing to raise the flag at the slightest pretext and take sadistic pleasure in being clobbered by the military. There are the more knowledgeable objectors, of course, who see it another way. They say without fanfare that the Balikatan exercises violate the constitutional prohibition against the presence of foreign troops in our territory except when allowed by a duly ratified treaty.

The administration says that the war games now being staged in Mindanao by Filipino and American soldiers are authorized by the Visiting Forces Agreement. The exercises are merely intended to improve the military capability of our Armed Forces in line with the RP-US mutual defense treaty of 1951. The American troops are here not to direct the hunt and destruction of the Abu Sayyaf but only to help and advise our own troops in this campaign.

That line is hard to swallow, considering the superior capability and possible arrogance of the American soldiers vis-à-vis their little brown brothers. I doubt that, in the heat of battle, they will hold their fire and, like armchair generals, simply advise their native counterparts on how to capture and kill the outlaws. My guess is that, all pretenses aside, they are here on a deadly mission to rescue two Americans still held hostage by the kidnappers and avenge the murder of another countryman slain by the same vicious gang.

Come to think of it, though, what's wrong with the American soldiers helping our own soldiers fight the Abu Sayyaf? Our Armed Forces have been trying to subdue those outlaws for years with outstanding failure. It's useless for Malacañang to insist on the "official" purpose of the American forces because nobody believes it anyway. Everybody knows we are helpless against the Abu Sayyaf and need American military assistance to subdue them. Why else are the exercises being held in the bandits' lair rather than in a less hostile place?

All this talk about our impaired sovereignty is just twaddle because our own government *invited* the United States to help us crush the lawlessness in Mindanao. It is not as if the US soldiers simply barged into our country and without so much as a by your leave, started shooting down the Abu Sayyaf. The simple fact is that Malacañang has welcomed the Americans for the valuable assistance they can give our own soldiers. The real question is whether such invitation is legally justified under our present Constitution.

That question has been elevated to the Supreme Court, which is now asked to decide if the Balikatan operations are covered by the VFA or require permission under another treaty in accordance with Art. 18, Sec. 25 of the Constitution, providing in part that, "foreign military bases, troops or facilities shall not be allowed in the Philippines except under a treaty duly concurred in by the Senate." I hope the high tribunal will not evade this crucial constitutional question by dismissing it on technical grounds.

I do not mean to belittle the gallantry of our soldiers who are out there in the killing fields of Basilan and risking their lives to uphold the authority of the Republic. Like it or not, however, we have to admit that despite their courageous and determined efforts to stamp out lawlessness in that embattled area, the Abu Sayyaf still hold sway like an invincible enemy. They can be finally exterminated with the help of the American troops, but only if the Supreme Court sustains such assistance.

Nobody has ever called me pro-American except my children who tease me when I absent-mindedly sing the Star Spangled Banner that I still remember from my schooldays during the American regime. In fact, I have consistently opposed American exploitation of our country in the guise of altruism and friendship. In the present controversy, however, I am hoping, for the practical reasons here given, that the Supreme Court will validate the contested American presence.

In his recent State of the Union speech, President Bush merely mentioned the presence of American troops in the Philippines to help stamp out international terrorism. He did not lump our country with Iran, Iraq and North Korea as eventual targets of US retaliation for harboring terrorists. Let us not be cowering Cassandras. We should not feel threatened because Bush was not threatening us. We will know how to act if and when foreign troops enter our territory against our will in contempt of our independence.

I disagree in the strongest terms with President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's blanket condemnation of the critics of the so-called "war games" in Mindanao as "communists." Her compartmentalized thinking has disparaged conscientious students of the Constitution and serious-minded citizens who sincerely believe that the pretended "exercises" debase our status as a sovereign country. Such narrow-mindedness ill becomes the head of a democratic state who should be a president for all the people. For shame!

Light and salty moments

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

SOME of you may have noticed that I made a mistake in my last column last Sunday. Instead of writing about the Beatitudes, I wrote about being the light and the salt of the earth, which is the theme of today's Gospel (Mt. 15,13-16). *Mea culpa*. It was a simple case of oversight and maybe forgetfulness on my part. I made a mistake. I was wrong. Sorry about that. No excuses. "*Quod scripsi, scripsi.* (What I've written, I've written)."

Ironically, the title of my column last week was "Making a difference." Oh well, next time, I'll be more focused and more careful. Amen!

* * *

Feb. 13 is Ash Wednesday, which marks the beginning of the Lenten Season. The starting point of Lent is repentance. The ashes remind us that we are dust, we are nothing before God. Unless we accept our sinfulness, we cannot be converted. A proud person does not accept his sinfulness and need for God. Humility then is the key to true conversion. Humble *ka ba o hambog* to the Lord?

* * *

Last week, a man came to me for confession. It was time, he said, to go back to the Lord. He had violated all the 10 Commandments, except for murder, he said. But his greatest sorrow was that he had received so many blessings from God, and yet, he had not lived a life that was pleasing to Him. He had not been grateful to God. His last confession was 30 years ago, during his high school days.

It was such a touching and humbling moment for him, and also for me. I know, for I too have been forgiven much by the Lord. What a joy to experience the forgiveness of God. It is a joy which the world cannot give or take away.

There is great rejoicing in heaven when a sinner repents and goes back to the embrace of the Father. When was the last time you embraced your God? When was the last time you allowed Him to embrace you?

A text message from Lina Magbag said it beautifully: "Even if we take a thousand steps away from God, we only have to turn around and take one step back toward Him, because…He follows us all the way." What a God!

* * *

Feb. 14 is Valentine's Day. Someone said that when God measures the greatness of a person, He puts His tape measure around the heart, not the head or the waistline or the pockets. Do you have a big heart? Do you have a heart at all? Do not belittle matters of the heart. Matters of the heart do matter.

* * *

Recently, there was this issue as to which is more important for a person or a leader to have, IQ or charisma? The answer is: neither. What is more important is that a person, especially a leader, must have a sincere heart, a big heart that shows itself in concrete acts of service and love. IQ is fine and so is charisma, but they are tools that can be used or abused for selfish reasons. A person must have a heart. Without it, a person is not complete, and his life is one big farce.

Keep working on love. Don't give up, and don't be cynical about love with all its complications, and "with all its sham, drudgery, and broken dreams." It is, as the Desiderata puts it, "as perennial as the grass."

* * *

Just for fun, I forwarded to my married friends this text message: "What is the shortest sentence? I am. What is the longest sentence? I do." I was amazed and amused by the responses I received.

From the men: "*Talaga, Father.*" "Correct *ka diyan.*" "*Sinabi mo!*" "*Di ba puedeng mag*-appeal?"

Most of the women did not text back or they just answered, "No comment." But what floored me was the response of one woman who texted back, "Praise God!"

Whatever, the message of Valentine's Day is that we keep going back to the heart, and keep working on love. Happy Valentine's to all!

* * *

There's a joke saying that nowadays people in search for a partner in life are looking for these qualities: pleasing PESOnality; good CARacter; and good family BANKground. In answer to this, I encourage young people to go for BBC: Beauty, Brains and Character. Go for someone who is a BIR—Beautiful, Intelligent and Religious.

* * *

In this column, I always try to share light, but salty moments. We do not have to be very serious when it comes to sharing God's Word. In fact, God's Word should make us feel light and make us see the light. However, God's word has substance and taste. It should move us to live substantial lives. Yes, we are all called to give light and give taste.

* * *

Feb. 11 is the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. We are making a pilgrimage to Lourdes and Garabandal, Spain, from April 8-17. For more details, please call 939-65-28; 913-6015; 7266162. Also, we will have a traveling retreat to Australia from April 18-28. Call 721-7457; 4523-8581 to 88. There will also be a pilgrimage to Naju Korea to encounter the visionary and healer Julia Kim. Call 721-7457; (075) 551-5657. I have experienced so many light and salty moments in pilgrimages.

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, help me to live a light and salty life. Amen.

The importance of barangay elections

COMMENTARY

Lourdes Didith V. Mendoza
Institute on Church and Social Issues

PEOPLE aspiring for barangay posts must have heaved a sigh of relief when they heard that after much debate, Congress allocated more than P1 billion to ensure that the barangay election will push through. Potential candidates and the common *tao* have been on edge these past few months, waiting for a clue from the higher-ups as to the fate of the next barangay election. Now it is pushing through at last, but the ruckus over whether the election should be postponed gives us a hint of what the politicos consider important, or in this case, unimportant. Judging from their actions, to them, the barangay is unimportant.

Barangay politics in the past has never really drawn much attention from the national leadership. Elections at the community level have never been significant to big-time politicians. But for them to dilly-dally on holding the election is an insult not just to the small-time candidates in the barangay but to the poor in general. For the poor who have been feeling alienated ever since President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo took over the presidency, the barangay election offers a chance to choose the representatives they can see, hear and touch on a daily basis. This is an opportunity for the poor to exercise their right to choose, and see to it that their choices are occupying the posts they have been elected to.

If for the legislators, getting the chance to choose another set of barangay officials is unimportant, for the poor, it is essential to their existence. The barangay, they say, is the first refuge of people like them. It is the first place they run to when their children are sick. It is the first place they dash to when a neighbor runs amok and starts hacking at everything and everyone that gets in the way. It is the first place they go to when they want to go into business. But for some time now, they have been feeling that everybody has been ignoring their most basic needs. Some even think that the barangay has become a mere landmark in their communities.

For the poor, voting is, contrary to popular perception, a life-changing choice. In the barangay level, it could mean a louder voice in society. It could mean that this time around, some people would finally take notice of them.

In our consultations with different communities, most of the people talked to emphasize time and time again that the incumbent barangay officials failed to help them. Most didn't even know who their councilors were. Some said their barangay chairpersons had turned into small-time *trapos*. These and other experiences with inept barangay officials have made them look forward to the next barangay election.

The next election provides them a chance to hope for change within their communities, because sometimes it is too much to hope for change at the national level. The changes that have happened at the national level have not been to their liking. This time, they can choose the candidates who will represent them better and who will give at least a semblance of positive change in their communities.

Election day is not just a day of reckoning for incumbent officials but for the *masa* as well. On May Day last year, they jammed Edsa to fight for and restore to Malacañang the man they had voted for. This year, they will be marching in the streets again, not to protest but to put a few good men in office within the boundaries of their small but significant territories. If voter turnout is good, then it will validate their claim that they really care for their own welfare.

Big-time politicians may turn their noses up on community-level elections, but the *masa* should not because they cannot afford not to care. The issues at stake are very close to them. The barangay election is not just a court where small-time politicians will be judged according to what they have done, if any. The *masa* will also be on trial here. The representatives they choose will be the gauge of how wise they have become from lessons learned from past political turmoil, be it within the community, or on the national level.

The ball is now in the voters' hands. The choices they make will be crucial. The thing to do is to make sure that the right representatives are chosen and put in office. Every voter should bear in mind that barangay officials are his own personal spokespersons. They should be persons little people can trust and look up to.

President Macapagal once said (although she herself thought we could do away with the community election this year) that the barangay's role is vital to the country's progress. It is the government's front line. The barangay as a government body is the closest to the hearts of the people, and consequently it can understand the *masa* better.

But the barangay is not merely a government body. The barangay is the representative of the common *tao*. Barangay officials understand the little people better because they feel the same things the *masa* feels. They are the *masa*. The law gives communities the power and the means to plan and achieve their own progress, even if big-time politicians do not.

A life-saving lipstick story

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

COVERAGE of "women's stories" used to be known as the "lipstick beat." I suppose it was the news desk's way of gently denigrating the "unimportant" concerns of women, which tended to cluster around the home, child rearing, the party circuit, fashion and beauty. Now, I know more than a few women (and men) for whom these are life-and-death matters. But by the traditional (read: male) standards of news evaluation, these are but trifling matters compared to wars and crime, political maneuverings and geo-political shifts.

Well, here's one "lipstick" story that could save lives. And for Filipino women threatened by breast cancer, it is as well a story that could save them from nights of worry, possible disfigurement and death. It's been said that the only risk factor for breast cancer that Filipino women need worry about is being born female in the Philippines. While in general breast cancer rates are lower in Asia than in the West, the Philippines reports the highest rates of breast cancer among all Asian countries.

Some facts we all need to know: Breast cancer is the most common form of cancer among women and is the leading cause of cancer death in women between the ages of 40 and 55. Every year, 4,000 Filipino women either die or lose one or both breasts to the disease. And studies show that far too many of these women find out that they have breast cancer too late, when it is no longer treatable.

This is truly tragic, since early detection, before the cancer has grown or spread, is key to survival. There are already proven methods for detecting breast cancer, including breast self-exams, clinical exams and mammograms, or X-rays of the breast. It's said that a mammogram can detect the presence of a growth or tumor long before it grows big enough to be seen or felt. But there is no more effective weapon against breast cancer than a vigilant woman who is familiar with her body and trusts her instincts.

* * *

HERE'S where the lipstick comes in.

For the whole month of March, Women's Month, Avon Philippines will embark on the "Kiss Goodbye to Breast Cancer" campaign in partnership with the Philippine Cancer Society. The objective is to raise P5 million for the purchase of a mammography machine to be donated to the Philippine General Hospital Cancer Institute and the establishment of a Breast Cancer Center.

The primary method of fund-raising will be through the sale of a special line of lipsticks that will retail at half the regular price. For every lipstick sold, P5 will go to the Kiss Goodbye to Breast Cancer fund. The target is to sell one million lipsticks.

These special lipsticks come in five shades whose names, says Avon, "reflect the hues of hope." They are Faith, Life, Strength, Courage and Heart.

* * *

AT THE PRESS conference announcing the launch, "Avon ladies" went around the room distributing unique pledge cards. One doesn't just sign one's name and pledge to buy a number of lipsticks. One needs to seal it with a kiss, too, imprinting a "kiss of support" with a lip print, preferably using one of the special Avon "hues of hope."

Among those who have already "kissed" breast cancer goodbye are Sen. Loren Legarda-Leviste, Emily Abrera, Lea Salonga, Zsa Zsa Padilla, Rachel Alejandro, Celeste Legaspi, the Cojuangco sisters, Mikee, Maimai and China, Regine Velasquez, Belinda Panelo and Jaya. I also spotted the "kisses" of senators' spouses as well as of women in business, government, media, culture and the arts. But why no kiss from GMA yet?

More important than the "kisses" of celebrities, however, will be the "kiss of support" of the Avon ladies, who number nearly 700,000 in the Philippines. They will be the real foot soldiers in this campaign not just to raise money for the mammogram machine and breast clinic, but also to inform Filipino women about breast cancer and what they can do to protect themselves against it.

Before this "Kiss Goodbye to Breast Cancer" campaign, Avon Philippines already had its own breast cancer information campaign. Among its more praiseworthy efforts was including flyers about breast self-exam and breast care in every packet of Avon bras and underwear.

* * *

MEANTIME, here's what every woman can do to increase her chances of surviving breast cancer:

By the time she turns 20, she should start performing a monthly breast self-exam, preferably right after the end of her menstrual period.

By the time she turns 30, she should, in addition to the monthly breast self-exam, have a yearly clinical breast exam, to be done by a doctor or health professional.

By the time she turns 40, she should, in addition to the monthly breast self-exam and yearly clinical breast exam, go for a yearly mammogram. It's also a good idea to combine the mammogram with a pap smear, which screens for cervical cancer.

By the time a woman is 20, she should be comfortable enough with her naked body to look at it unflinching before a mirror and search for anything out of the usual (aside from cellulite and liver spots). Among the more common signs of breast cancer to look for: a lump or thickening of the skin in or near the breast or in the underarm area; a change in the size or shape of the breast; swelling or distortion of the skin; unexplained discharge from the nipple; inversion or retraction of the nipple; ridges or pitting of the breast (orange peel skin); and any change in the way the skin, areola or nipple looks or feels.

Terrorist talk

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

BY "TERRORIST TALK," I mean absolutist talk like President George W. Bush's "Either you are with us or you are with the terrorists." Such talk does not allow any room for alternative viewpoints. Its speaker has seen the "truth," therefore any other view must be false or evil.

What President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo said the other day falls under this category. With statements like, "You are not a Filipino if you refuse the help being offered by a friend. You are not a Filipino if you don't want the peace and prosperity promised by Balikatan 02-1," she, in effect, terrorizes the public into uncritically accepting the deployment of American troops to Mindanao. Anyone who criticizes this policy is now classifiable, in her own words, as "a protector of terrorists, a cohort of murderers, an Abu Sayyaf lover."

Why President Macapagal is suddenly talking like this is puzzling. She is an intelligent person, and it does not require great intelligence to know that there may be Filipinos who are opposed to the American military engagement in Mindanao precisely because they care for their country and the welfare of the Filipino soldier. What they oppose is not the campaign to terminate the Abu Sayyaf, but the use of means that are contrary to law and are likely to produce greater injury to the nation.

What is at issue is not American assistance to the Armed Forces of the Philippines, which is covered by existing agreements. The Visiting Forces Agreement, whose validity the Supreme Court has upheld, permits the conduct of joint military exercises by American and Philippine troops. But the VFA cannot be invoked to justify involving American soldiers in the pursuit of local bandits like the Abu Sayyaf.

This much has been clarified by constitutionalist, Fr. Joaquin Bernas. If the government wishes to engage US troops in the hunt for the Abu Sayyaf, it will have to do so under the auspices of the RP-US Mutual Defense Treaty. It will have to show that the Abu Sayyaf is part of the network that attacked the United States last Sept. 11, and then formally declare the existence of a state of war. Congress will have to authorize the President to exercise the powers necessary to carry out a declared national policy.

The President knows that we are not in a state of war. That is why she treats the presence of the American soldiers under the concept of a joint military exercise. But to bring American troops, ostensibly on a training mission, into a combat zone, where the probability of engagement with the enemy is very high, is to compromise the character of the training exercise.

I question the propriety and wisdom of doing so. I believe that the use of military forces to subdue a band of local criminals, normally a police job, is exceptional enough. But to invite foreign troops to participate in the hunt for local bandits, in the guise of training, is an anomaly that should not be allowed.

There is nothing in the world, however, that cannot be made acceptable by redescription. And so the official line is that the American soldiers are here to train. They will learn from the Filipinos the rudiments of fighting in tropical jungles, and in turn they will teach our soldiers the use of modern equipment in actual combat. For the Americans to be able to train Filipino soldiers effectively, they must carefully observe their needs and deficiencies. That means following and watching their "students" as they pursue a live enemy.

This on-the-job-training ruse sounds to me even more sinister than the actual enlistment of US troops for combat. What is being depicted here is a "live" laboratory for counter-terrorist training. Instead of an imaginary enemy, we have a real enemy. Instead of a simulated tropical jungle setting, we offer Basilan, a real, inhabited province infested by a band of terrorists.

No, the government cannot be serious. It is the height of irresponsibility to offer Basilan as a laboratory for testing the latest American weaponry and techniques in counter-terrorism. It is like offering the painful dysfunctions of one's own family as a case study for someone else's psychiatric training on the promise that at the end of it, we may finally be rid of our neuroses.

There is a real situation in Mindanao that deserves all the attention and dedication we can summon. It is clearly more than a simple police or military problem. Many approaches have been tried, and many people, civilians and soldiers alike, have died in the process. The Abu Sayyaf may be the most galling manifestation of this problem, but it is still only one aspect of a very complex reality.

What Mindanao needs is an honest-to-goodness course of treatment based on a deep awareness of the roots of the conflicts that have troubled it for centuries, and a readiness on our part to admit responsibility for the mess in which the island finds itself. The solution cannot come from merchants of military gadgetry who seduce our allegiance by offering to leave "professional samples" behind. It cannot come from powerful nations that seek to make their needs and beliefs the norm for all humanity.

It must proceed from a sustained striving to solve our problems our own way. For only a nation that has sincerely tested the limits of self-reliance can profit from the help of others.

* * *

Comments to rdavid@pacific.net.ph

Public accountability has no time limit

COMMENTARY

Raul J. Palabrica

THE CLOCK is ticking on the impeachment complaints filed by lawyer Ernesto Francisco and Representatives Oscar Moreno and Satur Ocampo against Ombudsman Aniano Desierto.

The House of Representatives has to decide on the complaints, whether to dismiss or endorse them to the Senate for trial, within the time frame provided for in the Constitution.

Those against pursuing the charges have argued that the evidence submitted in support of the complaints is insufficient. The pro-impeachment congressmen, however, believe the affidavits and other documents cited in the complaints meet the criteria that justify the ombudsman's removal from office.

But two congressmen have come up with unique reasons for demanding the termination of the proceedings. Rep. Edgar Erice of Caloocan City thinks they are useless and a waste of government resources. He said the move will become "moot and academic" because Desierto is scheduled to retire in August this year.

Ilocos Sur Rep. Salacnib Baterina, on the other hand, feels the impeachment cases distract Congress from its more important legislative work. He wants the legislature to rein in superfluous impeachment complaints.

Although it is certain that their colleagues will ignore their plea, the position taken by the two congressmen is disturbing. It runs against the true concept of public service. It reveals a mind-set that considers acts of graft and corruption by high-ranking government officials as nothing to be worried about or something that should be ignored simply because the affected officials are about to leave the service.

Those statements must have given former President Estrada, who is now on trial for acts of plunder committed during his term, some cause for regret. Had a similar cavalier treatment of graft and corruption been the norm in the past Congress, he probably would still be enjoying the luxurious privileges of the presidency.

Accountability

Impeachment is a special disciplinary process that the Constitution has reserved for select officials of the country, the ombudsman included. Not even the members of Congress, who think, act and talk like arrogant feudal overlords, are included in that "honor list."

The impeachable officials are made to account for acts that violate their oaths of office. The impeachment mechanism is aimed at upholding the dictum that "a public office is a public trust," which assumes more significant meaning for holders of constitutional offices.

The only penalty imposable on a government official found guilty of an impeachable offense is removal from office and perpetual disqualification to hold any government position. No imprisonment, no fine. The dismissal is, in effect, a declaration that the official has been found wanting in the qualifications demanded by his office and should therefore get out.

Public accountability is not time-bound. The people have the right to know and assess the manner by which their public officials perform the duties and responsibilities of their offices. That right (and the corresponding duty to make an accounting) remains in place even after the public officials have resigned or retired.

An impeachable offense committed at the beginning of a term of office is as bad as when it is committed on the last day. The gravity of an act of graft and corruption does not depend on the time or date of its commission. Graft is graft whether committed last month, yesterday or tomorrow.

Assuming that any or all the impeachment complaints are declared to be in order, it does not matter if Desierto is retiring this August or two years from now. He should be made to face the consequences of the impeachable acts being imputed to him even if the trial has to stop on the eve of his retirement.

The wrong message will be sent to our people if the impeachment proceedings are discontinued because of his forthcoming compulsory retirement. It's like saying it is okay for a government official to rob the national coffers as long as he is able to avoid detection until his term of office is about to end.

And in the unlikely event that he is caught, he can plead for leniency on the ground that he is after all on his way out. Or because he is already old, allowing him to ride into the sunset without being held liable for his misdeeds will not cause further damage to the country.

This kind of excuse is no different from the "make hay while the sun is gay" attitude of many of our government officials, senators and congressmen included with special mention. These officials see nothing wrong with using the powers of their office to steal or extort money because this opportunity will be available only for three or six years or while they are in the good graces of the appointing power.

If only to impress on the mind of the public that impeachable officials who have violated their oaths of office will not escape public accountability, the impeachment proceedings should be prosecuted to their logical end. Either way it goes, what is important is that the process is allowed to take its natural course and a final determination is made on whether or not Desierto is liable for the acts he is being accused of.

Expenses

The proceedings are a waste of government money? Hello! The congressmen are the last people in the world to preach about the rational use of government resources. Those who salivate for pork barrel funds, use taxpayers' money for useless junkets abroad or exploit their position to get juicy government contracts have no right to plead reasons of economy to stop an important cleansing process.

There can be no price tag on public accountability, especially if it involves the official mandated to be the people's guardian against excesses by government officials. The process provided for in the Constitution to check on the performance of high-ranking officials should not be held in abeyance for dubious financial reasons.

It's like our national and local elections. These political exercises are expensive, but the financial burden has to be endured even if it means cutting funds for other services because the periodic selection of leaders is an essential activity in a democracy.

Although the impeachment trial of former President Estrada was aborted, the time, money and effort spent in the entire exercise were well worth it. It sent a strong message to all government officials that no one is immune or exempt from a similar accountability test. You will pay a high price if you violate your oath of office.

No doubt, the impeachment proceedings have considerably taken the time and energy of the congressmen. But that cannot be avoided because the House is the only body authorized to hear and resolve impeachment complaints. It cannot shirk from that responsibility because no other branch of government can perform that function.

Between useless debates and investigations conducted in aid of legislation (or better still, in aid of the legislators' pockets) and the proceedings to determine the culpability of Desierto for the impeachable offenses, the latter activity constitutes a more fruitful use of the legislators' time.

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TALK OF THE TOWN

Juan V. Sarmiento Jr., Editor

PEACe bonds: A crony deal? (1)

TWO civil society groups believe so, saying that CODE-NGO used its connections to convince the government to sell 10-year bonds that the group had conceptualized. The sale of PEACe bonds, or Poverty Eradication and Alleviation Certificates, on Oct. 16, 2001 was the first in the country.

For besting 14 other bidders, CODE-NGO earned P1.4 billion in net profit without shelling out its own money. Its underwriter paid P10.16 billion for the bonds, which the government will have repay to the tune of P35 billion after 10 years.

The two civil society groups claim that the odds of snagging the deal were in favor of CODE-NGO because of its ties to the administration. A sister of the finance secretary chairs CODE-NGO, which served as the secretariat of a coalition that was at the forefront of the movement to oust Joseph Estrada. And three former officers of CODE-NGO like Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman are now members of the Cabinet of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

A group of academicians calls the deal a case of impermissible rent seeking, while an anti-debt advocacy group says the government has been put at a disadvantage because it lost revenues when it granted tax exemptions to the transaction.

Due to space constraint, this section will present the side of CODE-NGO in the next issue.

'Negotiations were conducted in secret to ensure a P1-billion profit'

By the Freedom from Debt Coalition

THE PEACe bonds were first conceptualized as a negotiated deal. CODE-NGO lobbied with the Monetary Board, Treasury, the Bureau of Internal Revenue, and Insurance Commission to ensure its profit target of a billion pesos. Both tax exemption and secondary reserve eligibility were obtained within the framework of a negotiated deal. The negotiations had to be conducted in secret or there would be no billion-peso profit to speak of.

CODE-NGO negotiated this deal with the government from March to August 2001. According to National Coordinator Danilo Songco, CODE-NGO was still hoping to work out a negotiated sale with the government "even after Lito Camacho had already said *na hindi na lang*."

Only after National Treasurer Sergio Edeza warned Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho about the danger of violating the anti-graft law did the government and CODE-NGO shift from a negotiated deal to an auction. After at least three postponements, the auction took place on Oct. 16, 2001.

Tax exemption

In his July 12 memo to Camacho, Edeza raised questions regarding the BIR ruling of May 31, 2001, exempting the bonds from the 20-percent withholding tax and income and capital gains tax. The BIR ruled that the bonds were not "deposit substitutes" because they were going to be issued to only one investor. Edeza argued that although CODE-NGO would be the only buyer, its intention was to resell the bonds to institutional investors. And if CODE-NGO sold this to more than 20 investors then the bonds should be taxed. After all, the 1997 Tax Code defined "public" as 20 or more individual or corporate lenders *at any one time*.

Edeza also asked Camacho for a clarification regarding the BIR ruling that the gains from sale, exchange, or retirement of the bonds shall be exempt from income tax. He reminded the finance secretary that the Department of Finance had suspended this same ruling in an earlier case.

Edeza's questions regarding tax exemption were swept aside by BIR chief Rene G. Bañez, in a subsequent ruling on Aug. 16, 2001. Bañez even specified that limiting the number of lenders to 19 *at any one time* "covers only the origination or original issuance of the bonds regardless of whether sale or trading is made in the secondary market."

Ironically, the BIR rulings that formed the basis for the tax exemption *under the auction* were the *same rulings* issued within the premise *of a single investor*, CODE-NGO, purchasing the bonds. When the decision came to sell the bonds via auction, all the Treasury did was to limit the government's lenders to a maximum of 19 in order to keep the BIR rulings valid. What was the compelling economic reason for the government to give a tax break at a time when it had a serious fiscal deficit to overcome? There appears to be none.

Because the BIR is not tasked with the economic analysis of policy, its opinion on these matters should have mattered less compared to a policy determination by the finance secretary. It is at this juncture that Camacho should have rendered his analysis and judgment as an economic manager rather than as a bureaucrat, and stopped the auction instead of merely inhibiting himself.

Information gaps

Edeza made sure to brief members of the Investment House Association of the Philippines about the bond issue weeks before the auction. Nevertheless we observe gaps in the official notices regarding this flotation.

- Although this was a maiden issue of a zero-coupon bond of the Republic of the Philippines, neither a prospectus nor a tombstone was prepared and issued.
- The first written notice of the Treasury to the government securities eligible dealers (GSED) was dated Oct. 9, 2001, a week before the auction. It said only that the bond issue was limited to the 19-lender rule and therefore was exempted from the withholding tax.
- The secondary reserve eligibility was finally mentioned in the Treasury Notice that was released on Oct. 15, 2001, one day before the auction.
- On the day of the auction the Treasury further clarified the tax exemption and secondary reserve eligibility features of the bonds. We don't know what time this memo was released to the dealers, considering that the cutoff time for submitting bids was 12 noon. But this memo is also an indication that until the day of the auction, RCBC's rivals needed further clarification on crucial aspects of the bond float that should have been factored into their bids.
- No mention at all was made of the Insurance Commission eligibility or that the winning bidder could apply to the Insurance Commission for eligibility.

CODE-NGO and RCBC had worked on this flotation since the beginning and knew all the details surrounding the auction before it was announced to the bidders. They also had a seven-month head start to mobilize the P10 billion needed to snag the entire auction. Between a bank that had seven months to accumulate several billions of pesos and others that had only a week's notice, the latter's cost of capital would be much higher.

Manual bidding

In its Oct. 9 memo to the GSEDs, the Treasury announced that it would use manual bidding at the Oct. 16 auction.

The reason for the manual bid was the 19-lender limit, without which there would be no basis for the tax exemption. Unlike an electronic auction where there is no possibility of knowing before cutoff time what rival bidders are bidding, the manual bidding process of the Treasury leaves room for leakage.

The Treasury reported having received 45 bids from 15 GSEDs. RCBC admitted last December that it submitted four bids and won all. CODE-NGO and RCBC would not readily admit it, but they won the entire auction.

If the auction were a "level playing field" where GSEDs had the same competencies and access to the same information, the probability of RCBC winning all its four bids was 24 in 3,575,880 (0.0007 percent). Despite such odds RCBC won all its four bids. This means that RCBC operated on either a tremendous advantage, or on a dire need far greater than its competitors, or both.

CODE-NGO and RCBC said the profits from the sale of the bonds in the secondary market went entirely to CODE-NGO. RCBC kept none for itself even though it was expecting to earn a net income of only P444 million in 2001. The DoF/Treasury version says that after RCBC bought the bonds, RCBC then sold these to CODE-NGO, which then turned around and sold the bonds to RCBC Capital, the investment arm of RCBC.

CODE-NGO has admitted it did not have P10 billion to purchase the bonds. So the DoF/Treasury version is hard to believe.

Simulated sale

But there are indications that the alleged sale in the secondary market may be more simulated than real.

- A week after the auction CODE-NGO was telling its members that the money was already in its hands. This implies that the supposed sale in the secondary market had taken place.
- However, two weeks later, Maria Socorro Camacho-Reyes, CODE-NGO chair, and Songco wrote Insurance Commissioner Eduardo T. Malinis, requesting "that the PEACe bonds be considered eligible as: (1) security/statutory deposits... and (2) admitted assets for insurance company purposes." These eligibilities, they added, would enable CODE-NGO "to realize a premium." When the money was already in their hands? Songco has admitted on television that CODE-NGO fronted for RCBC.
- In a dialogue with the FDC on Jan. 8, Songco disclosed that RCBC "retained a large amount of the bonds for the Yuchengco group of companies... *Wala kaming binili e. Marami doon sa bumili mga* insurance companies *ng* Yuchengco Group."
- In a telephone conversation with FDC president Maitet Diokno-Pascual on Feb. 7, Camacho said that RCBC, not the Yuchengco insurance companies, was holding the bonds.

Earnings from margin

Both CODE-NGO and the DoF/Treasury would have us believe that the bond flotation saved the government a certain amount in interest. According to the DoF/Treasury, the non-tax benchmark yield-to-market (YTM) rate was 14.14 percent. The PEACe bonds were sold at a yield of 12.75 percent. The government therefore saved P1.24 billion in interest.

The benchmark yield rate used by CODE-NGO was the rate of the most recent auction of 10-year Treasury Notes prior to the auction. That yield is 13.2 percent (comparable non-tax rate). Using this as the benchmark, the government saves a smaller amount in interest—P420 million.

Either story is credible, but it is not complete. It is only half of the story, and the lesser half at that. Both CODE-NGO/RCBC and the DoF/Treasury are silent about the lion's share of the profits, which went to CODE-NGO and RCBC.

If the government's benchmark ranged from 13.2 percent to 14.14 percent, the benchmark of the banks that bid in the auction ranged from 7.2 percent (after tax) to 9 percent (pre-tax). This is what the Bangko Sentral pays them for their secondary reserves. The profit potential of the exclusive buyers (after buying the bonds at 12.75 percent YTM), would range therefore from P4.3 billion to P7.1 billion. This is larger than government's savings on interest by at least 3.5x and at most 16.8x.

Of the P4.3 billion to P7.1 billion potential profit of CODE-NGO/RCBC, CODE-NGO obtained P1.4 billion (including its 10-percent commission). Its financial advisers were paid at least P200 million in fees and RCBC earned P200 million in underwriter's fees. The balance—ranging from P2.5 billion to P5.2 billion—is what the actual holders of the bonds—RCBC, could earn.

Crouching profits, hidden losses?

There is another profit that CODE-NGO and RCBC may have earned, which is not readily visible. This is the tax foregone by the government when it exempted CODE-NGO from the 20-percent final tax. What is CODE-NGO/RCBC's gain, is the government's loss in tax revenue. We estimate it at P1.44 billion, an amount that seems to approximate the endowment fund before the deduction of fees, arrived at as follows:

Face value of PEACe bonds	P35.0B
Less: Net present value with yield of 12.75%	- 10.17B
interest	24.83B
Final tax foregone of 20 percent on interest	4.97B
Net present value of tax foregone	1.44B

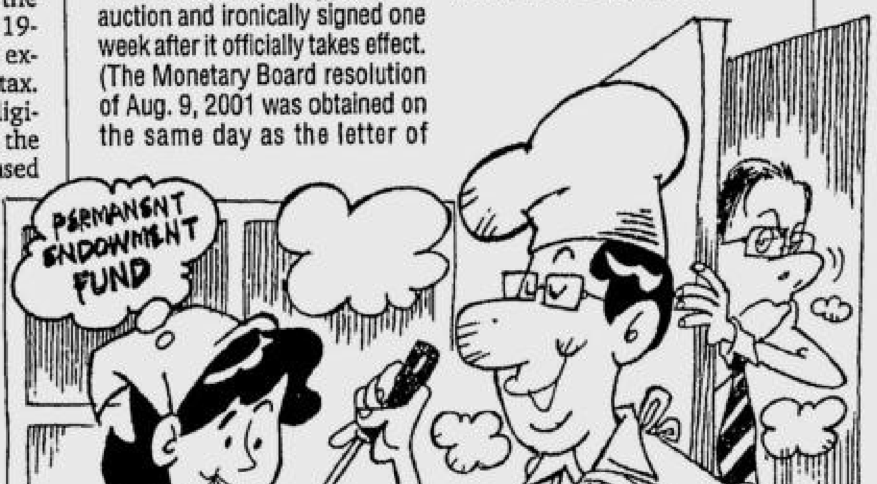
This issue, however, needs further clarification. On the one hand, if the bids were competitive, then it was possible that what was lost in taxes was gained in terms of greater proceeds from the bond issuance. On the other, the question whether this tax exemption is available only to CODE-NGO remains valid.

On paper it is not. But the Treasury made the bond float conditional on the number of lenders being less than 20 to be consistent with the BIR ruling that was premised on CODE-NGO being the only buyer. That is in fact how it happened in the end.

If the amount the government gave up in taxes is even bigger than what it saved in interest, the answer is obvious.

What CODE-NGO Needed to Obtain P1.4B

- Gov't OK to float the bond.
- A bank with the resources, which is not necessarily in the form of money, for the deal (initially, P4 billion, eventually, P10 billion), one that is eligible to bid in the auction, and act as firm underwriter.
- Government's willingness to go somewhere between after-tax yield of 7.2 percent (for Bangko Sentral secondary reserves) and tax-exempt current yield of 10-year notes of 14.14 percent. The winning bid approved by the auction committee was 12.75 percent.
- Monetary Board's OK to endow it with secondary reserve eligibility through several resolutions approved in June, August, and September 2001, and another one even two days after the auction and ironically signed one week after it officially takes effect. (The Monetary Board resolution of Aug. 9, 2001 was obtained on the same day as the letter of CODE-NGO requesting for an additional decision from the Board.)
- Initial ruling from the BIR on tax exemption
- Subsequent ruling from BIR on tax exemption after Edeza raised questions
- Insurance Commission's OK to endow it with reserve eligibility for capital and reserves of insurance companies several weeks after the auction, at the request of CODE-NGO, even if the PEACe bonds were no longer in their possession as they publicly admit, but in RCBC Capital's.
- It needed to win the entire auction.
- It needed the Treasury's cooperation to accept RCBC's bids amid the risks and serious doubts that are now being raised.



PAGE DESIGN: ERNIE SAMBO ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

'Impermissible rent seeking'

By the Action for Economic Reforms and Friends

OUR OPPOSITION to the PEACe bonds stems from CODE-NGO's rent seeking to obtain the P1.4 billion. Rent seeking is defined as "the resource-wasting activities of individuals in seeking transfers of wealth through the aegis of the state."

The pernicious type of rent-seeking is one that consists of the non-transparent use of a position of influence or the use of corrupt methods to secure privilege from government, resulting in monopoly profits for a particular group. Not only does this result in the waste of resources; it also undermines the democratic processes of transparent public consultations. Cronyism, patronage politics, and graft and corruption are linked to the worst kind of rent seeking.

We can draw from the admitted facts that CODE-NGO lobbied government to obtain a profit in the form of a rent. It is candid enough to admit that it worked for, and would have preferred, a government decision that would have given it a privileged position outright. The ultimate decision of government was to course the transaction through the auction.

A negotiated settlement, after all, would have been a blatant act of government giving in to rent seeking of a group that has close personal and political ties with the administration. We cannot discount the fact that CODE-NGO banked on the political capital it built during the campaign to oust President Joseph Estrada, as well as personal connections, to secure from government certain decisions meant to corner for itself a monopoly rent.

That the issuance of the PEACe bonds was done through auction is now used as an argument that CODE-NGO obtained its objective fair and square. Indeed, an auction is better than a negotiated settlement. But even in the auction, CODE-NGO's rent-seeking behavior had already given them an advantage.

Among similarly situated groups, CODE-NGO had the privilege, if not *sole* access, to the auction. Other civil society groups were not even aware of this opportunity. In economic jargon, there was information asymmetry (an indication of market failure). If provided the information, other civil society groups could have participated in the auction by attaching themselves to eligible bidders.

But does CODE-NGO deserve special treatment, being the largest network of NGOs? While CODE-NGO may be the biggest network of NGOs, it nonetheless does not represent the whole NGO community. Nor does it claim to be the leader of Philippine NGOs. "Inequitable access" to the PEACe bonds is hence a valid issue (a point raised by a social reformist with extensive experience in business, government and NGOs). In short, the issuance of the PEACe bonds was a particularistic dispensation of privilege.

CODE-NGO's behavior reinforced the bad rent-seeking processes—non-transparency, exclusivity, patronage politics and cronyism—that are already entrenched in government. CODE-NGO itself condemned such processes not so long ago when it actively campaigned to oust Estrada.

(Excerpts from the statement of Carlito Añonuevo, Jenina Joy Chavez, Prospero J. De Vera, Alvin Firmeza, Jose Ernesto Ledesma, Marvic Leonen, Nepomuceno Malaluan, Ma. Cristina Morales, Rene Ofreneo, Rene Raya, Jessica Reyes-Cantos and Filomeno Sta. Ana III)

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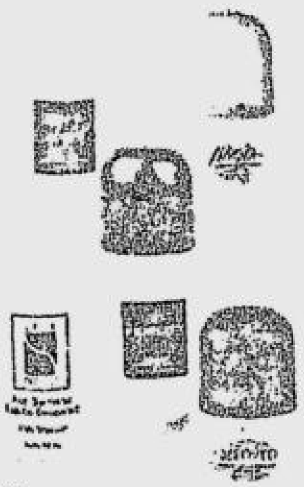

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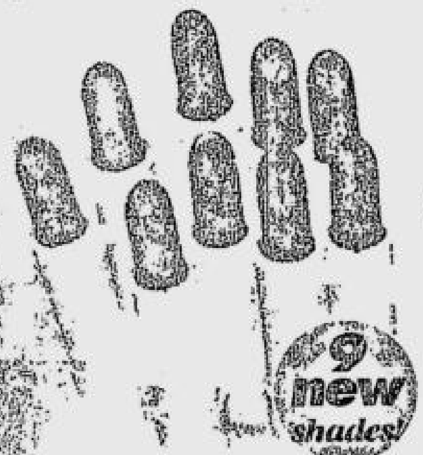

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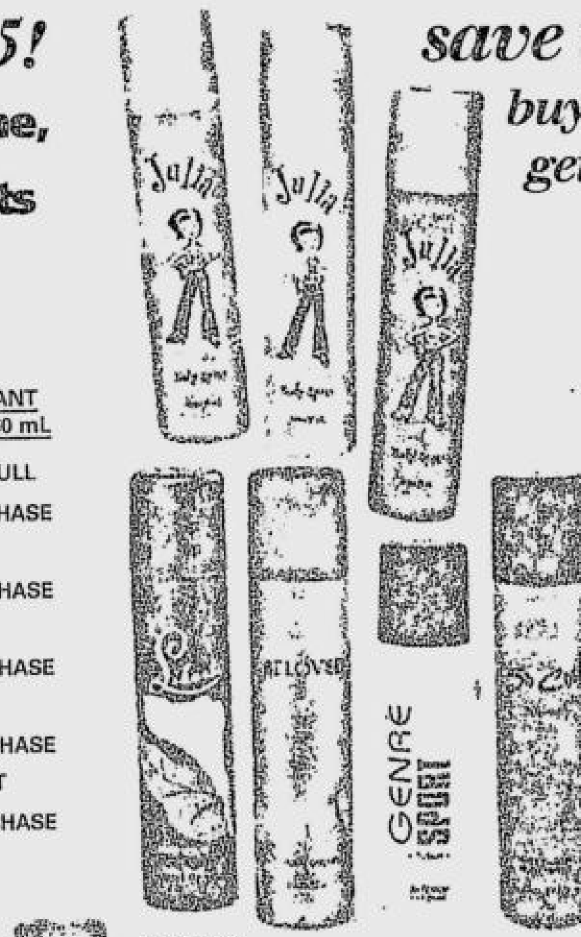

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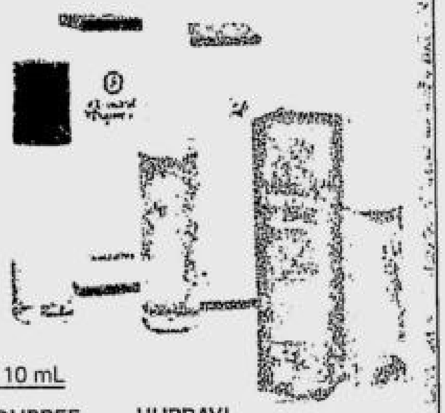

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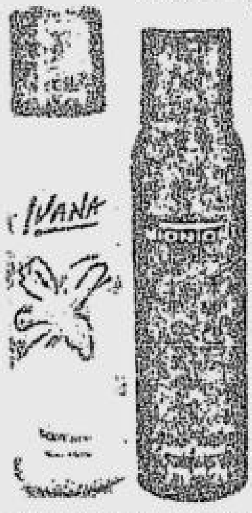

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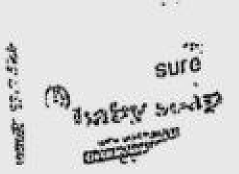

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The WORLD

Editor **Luvern B. Gueco**

Bush move fails to silence critics

AFGHAN horsemen fight for the carcass of a headless calf during a traditional sport called "buzkushi" in Mazar-i-Sharif in northern Afghanistan Feb. 8. Buzkushi, which was banned during the Taliban rule, has seen a revival in the city.

REUTERS/CLARO CORTES IV

WASHINGTON—President George W. Bush may have hoped to quiet critics by accepting that Taliban detainees are covered by the Geneva Conventions, but continued protest from rights groups and others show his public relations problem has not gone away, analysts said on Friday.

The key complaint from US rights groups and non governmental experts was that the Bush administration had apparently appointed itself judge of whether Taliban and al-Qaida were prisoners of war.

Bush decided on Thursday that Taliban fighters captured during the war in Afghanistan would be covered by the Geneva Conventions, but denied them status as POWs, which would have given them specific rights.

The ruling left confusion among many analysts over the legal status of the 186 Taliban fighters and al-Qaida guerrillas held at Guantanamo Navy Base in Cuba and the 271 held in Afghanistan.

Some critics objected to the fact that Bush decided the Geneva Conventions as a whole, including the third one that discusses POWs, did not apply to al-Qaida fighters.

Written in the aftermath of World War Two and ratified by the United States and Afghanistan, the conventions laid out guidelines for deciding whether someone was a POW and for their humane treatment whether they were or not.

The third convention says that "should any doubt arise" about what category captives fall into, "such persons shall enjoy the protection of the present Convention until such time as their status has been determined by a competent tribunal."

"It's obvious that we are being asked to accept the decision of the administration... outside of the accepted procedures of the convention," said David Scheffer, senior fellow at the US Institute for Peace, and war crimes ambassador under the Clinton administration.

The administration ruled no tribunal was needed since US authorities were certain the captives were not POWs.

Critics said that by claiming the right to rule unilaterally whether Taliban and al-Qaida captives were POWs, Bush was opening the door to countries with poor human rights records denying POW status to Americans caught on their soil.

Reuters

Pakistan charges 3 in kidnapping of US reporter

KARACHI, Pakistan—Three men charged in the kidnapping of Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl will appear in court next week, but there was no word Saturday of Pearl's whereabouts and a government spokesperson criticized police for claiming he may be found soon.

Maj. Gen. Rashid Quereshi, chief spokesperson for President Pervez Musharraf, said the search for Pearl continues "day and night, they are not resting at all." But he also backed away from police claims that Pearl's release could be just days away.

"We heard a couple of days back, you know, that we'll recover him in a day or two," Quereshi said. He said police officers have made such statements, which "I think is an incorrect thing to do. One should not make statements like this until one is absolutely sure."

"People that I spoke to they were hopeful. But they can't put a date to when they expect to recover him or catch the culprits," he said. "Commenting on his (Pearl's) status and things like that jeopardizes the whole investigation and maybe his own security."

The kidnapping is an embarrassment to Musharraf's government ahead of the Pakistani leader's visit to Washington next week.

Pearl, 38, the Journal's South Asian bureau chief, was abducted Jan. 23 en route to a meeting in Karachi with Muslim extremist contacts. He was believed to be investigating links between Pakistani militants and Richard C. Reid, a Briton arrested on a Paris-to-Miami flight in December with explosives in his shoes.

Police say the chief suspect in Pearl's abduction is a British-born Islamic militant, Ahmad Omar Saeed Sheikh, who remains at large. Saeed's father has come to Pakistan from London, apparently to help police find his son, an investigator, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Saturday.

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Violence hits Jerusalem after Bush-Sharon talks

JERUSALEM—Knife-wielding Arab youths killed a woman in an attack on Israelis in a popular Jerusalem tourist spot on Friday as 16 months of Middle East bloodshed spread to the city's Forest of Peace.

Violence also flared in the West Bank, where protesters battled police near Yasser Arafat's headquarters, one day after the United States renewed criticism of the Palestinian president but ignored Israeli appeals to sever ties with him.

Several attackers stabbed a 24-year-old Israeli woman in the Forest of Peace in south Jerusalem before police rushed in and shot at the attackers, officials said. Hospital officials said the victim later died from her wounds.

One suspect collapsed and died at the scene. A police spokesperson said there were no signs of wounds on his body, although a witness said he collapsed after Israeli police shot him in his leg and shoulder as he tried to escape.

Family members identified the assailant as 14-year-old Arab youth from Jerusalem. A second suspect was lightly wounded.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the assault, near the Haas Promenade, a tourist site famous for its view of Jerusalem's Old City.

Jerusalem has seen frequent gun, knife and bomb attacks by Palestinian militants during a Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In the West Bank, Palestinian witnesses said five stone-throwing protesters were wounded by rubber bullets in clashes with Israeli troops ringing Arafat's headquarters in the city of Ramallah.

Israeli forces also raided several Palestinian-ruled West Bank areas, arresting three suspected militants.

The raids followed an attack by a Palestinian gunman which killed three Israelis at a Jewish settlement in the West Bank on Wednesday. Israel also retaliated for the attack by carrying out two air strikes on security targets in Nablus on Thursday.

In Gaza's Jabalya refugee camp, Abdel-Aziz al-Rantissi, a Hamas leader, reaffirmed to a 10,000-strong crowd the group's "martyrs-in-waiting" would continue attacks against Israel.

The militant group opposes Israeli-Palestinian peacemaking and has carried out a wave of recent suicide bombings that have killed scores of Israelis.

Hours earlier, President George W. Bush told Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon at the White House that the United States would maintain pressure on Arafat to crack down on militants.

"I assured the prime minister that we will continue to keep pressure on Mr. Arafat to convince him that he must take serious, concrete, real steps to reduce terrorist activity in the Middle East," Bush told reporters at a joint appearance with Sharon.

He sidestepped a reporter's question on whether the United States, Israel's staunchest ally, would sever links with Arafat as Sharon had demanded ahead of his Washington visit. *Reuters*

A PALESTINIAN boy runs for cover after throwing stones at an Israeli tank during clashes near the office of Palestinian President Yasser Arafat in the West Bank City of Ramallah Feb. 8. REUTERS

India to buy aircraft carrier, bombers from Russia

NEW DELHI—India will purchase a decommissioned aircraft carrier, long-range bombers and tanks from Russia, but the price tag was yet to be determined, India's defense minister said Friday.

"Price negotiation needs to be done... We shall be on that job fairly soon," India's Defense Minister George Fernandes told reporters following three days of talks with Russian Deputy Prime Minister Ilya Klebanov in New Delhi.

India signed a deal to buy 300 T-90 Russian tanks last year and those shipments have already begun. Fernandes said Russia has agreed to supply some additional T-90 tanks to India before March 31. India apparently sought to acquire those tanks following the Dec. 13 attack on the Indian Parliament that the New Delhi government blames on Pakistani-supported Islamic militants.

Earlier this week, Pakistan's president accused India of "state terrorism" in Kashmir and called for international mediation to resolve the crisis that has threatened war between the South Asian neighbors.

President Gen. Pervez Musharraf said India had rejected Pakistani overtures for a dialogue on resolving the Kashmir issue, which has divided the two nations since they gained independence from Britain in 1947.

On Thursday, Klebabov urged both India and Pakistan to avoid war.

"Military action is not always the best way to resolve the situation," he said. *AP*

UN pulls out of Khmer Rouge trial

PHNOM PENH—A decision by the United Nations pull out of a planned international trial of surviving Khmer Rouge leaders left Cambodians stunned with disbelief, officials said Saturday.

Sok An, the Cambodian minister in charge of UN negotiations declined to comment saying no official letter had been received by the UN's legal counsel, Hans Corell.

But sources close to the government were bitterly disappointed that the UN had opted out of the trial of the ultra-Maoist leaders blamed for the deaths of 1.7 million people during their three-and-a-half year reign.

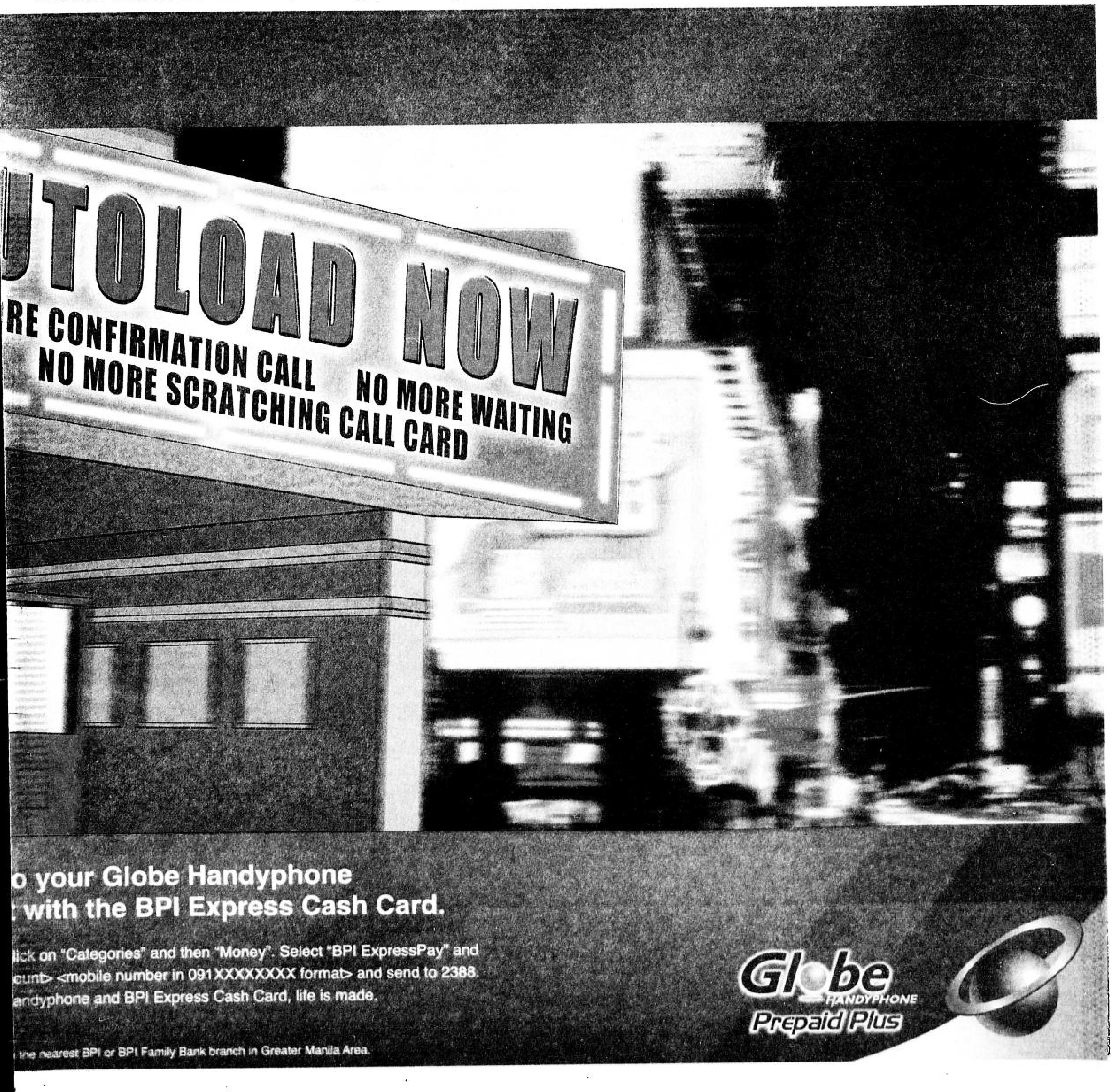
"It's very surprising and very disappointing, and they made the decision public before notifying the government here," one source said.

One ambassador from the Association of South East Asian Nations said the UN and Corell had no right to adopt such a position.

"Cambodia has been steadily climbing the rope of democracy and they would much rather this trial take place on international basis," he said.

"The Cambodian government was very proud of this model and Corell is setting a very bad example. The United Nations is simply a negotiating body and they have no right to do this," he said.

"There were a lot of people involved with getting this going, the United States, Japan, Australia and France, it's very disappointing," he said. *AFP*



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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Luzon, Southern Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers.
SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Cloudy with rains	HI29° Lo23°
Baguio	Cloudy with brief rains	HI 23° Lo 14°
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with rains	HI 31° Lo 19°
Laoag	Cloudy with rains	HI 31° Lo 20°
Clark Zone	Cloudy with rains	HI 30° Lo 23°
Tagaytay	Cloudy with rains	HI 29° Lo 21°
Legazpi	Cloudy with rains	HI 29° Lo 23°
Calapan	Cloudy with rains	HI 30° Lo 21°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with rains	HI 32° Lo 24°
Roxas	Partly cloudy to cloudy	HI 32° Lo 25°
Cebu	Partly cloudy to cloudy	HI 31° Lo 24°
Tacloban	Partly cloudy to cloudy	HI 31° Lo 25°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with rains	HI 32° Lo 23°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with rains	HI 32° Lo 22°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with rains	HI 30° Lo 24°
Davao	Cloudy with rains	HI 30° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Armin P. Adina, PDI Research/02/09/02

ROUNDUP

'Wagwag' tourism

BAGUIO CITY—Thanks to *wagwag* (bargain houses) and the December cold, this mountain resort city reached its million mark in tourist arrivals last year. Figures released by more than 80 hotels and inns in the city showed that 1,042,169 local and foreign tourists visited the city in 2001. December tourist arrivals reached 207,6324, almost twice the Holy Week figures that reached 135,218 in April. November was the third busiest month with 112,344 tourists visiting the city.
Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Hijackers seize rice truck

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—Four armed men who posed as policemen hijacked a truck loaded with 450 kilos of rice in Bulacan. Investigators said the truck was parked along the MacArthur Highway in Plaridel town when the gunmen, who alighted from a Mitsubishi Adventure van, approached the truck driver, George Cabrero, and his two helpers and accused them of carrying illegal cargo. One of the gunmen took the key from Cabrero and held the victims inside the truck until they reached Bacolor town, where they dropped off the victims.
Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk

3 robbery suspects held

IBA, Zambales—Police arrested three suspected robbers while they were trying to sell stolen goods in Olongapo City last week. Arrested were Rolando Borgonia, 26; Ricky Sinangote, 23; and Pedro Cabalar Jr., 22. Confiscated from them were farm pump motors, a diesel engine, electric generators, welding machines, cooking gas tanks and a Toyota Corolla car. Police said the suspects were behind the series of robberies in Zambales and Olongapo.
Cesar Villa, PDI Central Luzon Desk

No murder suspect yet

ILOILO CITY—Police failed to identify and arrest the suspect who stabbed dead an Israeli tourist and wounded another on Boracay Island on Jan. 28. Supt. Edgardo Mendoza, Aklan police director, said the police had questioned more than 20 residents but not one of them could identify the suspect in the killing of Raam Ben Shlomo, 26, and the wounding of his girlfriend, Liat Shani, 22 at Sitio Diniwid, Barangay Balabag, Boracay. Shani, accompanied by Israeli Embassy officials, left for Manila on Tuesday with Shlomo's remains. She refused to sign a statement on the incident prepared by the police but assured them that she would return and help investigators.
Nestor Burgos Jr., PDI Visayas Bureau

Suspected rebel killed

TACLOBAN CITY—A suspected member of the communist New People's Army was killed while his companion was wounded in an encounter Sunday between soldiers of the 43rd Infantry Battalion and guerrillas in Sitio Calag-ingan, Barangay Lugsunganan, Burauen, Leyte, 52 kilometers from this city. The fatality was identified by the military as "Ka Dolphy." Capt. Gilbert Roy Ruiz, Army information officer in Catbalogan, Samar, said the wounded, Arnel, was now in the custody of the 43rd IB based in Barangay Hibod-Hibod, Sogod, Southern Leyte.
Cynthia Borgueta, PDI Visayas Bureau

Rapist gets life

BACOLOD CITY—A former Army soldier was sentenced to life imprisonment on Tuesday after a court found him guilty of raping his 18-year-old daughter on Aug. 30, 2000. The court also ordered the accused, 48, to pay a total of P150,000 in damages to the victim. Records showed that the ex-soldier beat his daughter and threatened her with a .38 cal. revolver before he molested her inside a motel here.
Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau

Marijuana farm raided

LIAN, Batangas—Police raided a marijuana farm in Sitio Bungahan, Barangay Balibago, this town, on Tuesday. The area is being cultivated by local corn farmers. Police arrested Nestor Garcia, 46, a farmer, and his son Pio, 26, of nearby Calatagan town. Confiscated from the farm were 1.18 kilos of marijuana plants worth P10,180 and 20 grams of dried marijuana worth P200.
Mel Magsino, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Mindoro officials OK 25-yr mining moratorium

By Donna Virola
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

CALAPAN CITY—No large-scale mining in any form will be allowed in the province for the next 25 years.

This was the majority decision reached by the provincial board in approving Ordinance No. 001-2001, which was recommended on July 16 last year by Gov. Bartolome Marasigan Sr.

The ordinance declared "unlawful for any person or entity to engage in land clearing, prospecting, exploration, drilling, excavation, mining, or transport of mineral ores preparatory to all forms of mining operations for a period of 25 years."

Exempted from the moratorium is the excavation of ordinary stones, sand, gravel earth and other materials, which are operated by small-scale miners.

Violators will be penalized with a fine of not more than P5,000 and/or imprisonment of up to 12 months.

The ordinance, which took the board six months to pass, further jeopardized the position of Crew Minerals Development Corp. (Crew), a Canadian mining firm, which is planning to operate a large-scale mining project here.

"Whether Crew Minerals will appeal to the court is its right. It is also our right to continue looking for courses of action to stop mining in Mindoro," said Marasigan.

The 10 of the 13 board members who voted yes were Abraham Abes, Humerlito Dolor, Sancho Ferancullo, Rafael Infantado, Ernesto Liwanag, Leopoldo Malapitan, Darwin Maravilla, Claro Recto, Celestino Papasin and Ligorio Turano.

Those who voted no were Ireneo Apasan, Susan Cobrado and Rogeto Cometa.

Some of the board members joined a trip to Benguet last year, sponsored by Crew Minerals, to see what it claimed to be a good example of Philex Mining.

Turano, however, said the mining operation of Philex was different because it was done underground. Mindoro mining is on the surface, which, he said, was destructive to the watershed areas.

"This will eventually cause floods, which in the past took hundreds of lives and billions worth of property," he claimed.

Cometa, however, said Mindoro had been experiencing floods even without mining. "Why not try mining in Mindoro as this will open jobs even to those who try their luck abroad?" the board member argued.

Liwanag said the advantages of mining operations could not offset the disastrous effects that these would inflict on the environment.

Cobrado said he voted no to the moratorium because "life as we know today will not be possible without the minerals that we extract from the grounds."

She proposed a referendum to let the people decide on the issue. But this "is expensive and we have been actually voted upon by the people to represent them," said Vice Gov. Taddy Venturanza.

Apasan, who voted no, said the real issue was the legality of the moratorium. He stressed that it was inappropriate for the local government unit to oppose the Philippine Mining Act of 1995.

He cautioned that the board might soon be facing charges for approving the moratorium.

Dolor, who voted yes, cited the Local Government Code of 1991, Section 16 on the General Welfare Clause, saying that local government units should ensure and support, among other things, the health and safety and enhance the right of the people to a balanced ecology.

Gunmen kill forest ranger in Davao Or.

By Ferdinand O. Zuasola
PDI Mindanao Bureau

MATI, Davao Oriental—When it comes to firepower, the government's forest guardians are no match to illegal loggers in this town.

Heavily armed men believed to be hired by illegal logging operators to protect their lucrative business killed a forest ranger of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources here.

Romeo Torres, community environment and natural resources officer, narrated the attack to the Inquirer, which, he said, explained why they could not stop the massive illegal cutting of trees in the town.

Torres said the illegal logging operators have become bolder and are now forming their own army. He said the DENR's forest rangers, who were supposed to arrest illegal loggers, were ill-equipped.

For the third time this month, he and seven other forest rangers were chased and fired at by heavily armed men while they were on their way to Barangay Kamansi "to arrest illegal loggers," Torres said.

"We fled for our lives when we are being attacked by some 100 heavily armed men believed to be protecting illegal logging in the area. We don't have firearms to fight back. We are really helpless to stop them because we don't even have a vehicle to chase them, much less firearms to fight them," Torres said.

He said they tried to seek assistance from the town's policemen in arresting illegal loggers, "but no one is coming with us."

Torres admitted that the illegal logging problem was compounded by reports that policemen and local officials themselves were protecting, if not operating, the illegal logging business.

"But I cannot confirm it yet whether local police and government officials are behind the illegal logging business here," Torres said.

Recently, at least 100 pieces of illegally cut hardwood were seized by the DENR here, but no one was arrested.

The INQUIRER learned that illegal logging was also rampant in the towns of Boston, Cateel, Baganga, Caraga, Governor Generoso, San Isidro, Banay-Banay and Lupon.

Both the military and the provincial police are accusing the communist New People's Army of operating the illegal logging business in the coastal towns of Davao Oriental. The NPA has denied the allegation, saying it was the other way around.

2 Taiwanese, 4 Chinese held for 'human smuggling'

DAVAO CITY—Agents of the Bureau of Immigration arrested two Taiwanese and four Chinese fishermen for alleged human smuggling at a fish port in Toril District here on Thursday.

The suspects were identified as Taiwanese boat skipper, Capt. Chenh Shang, and engineer Huang Roei Hsing, and their Chinese crewmen, Chen Chi To, Chang Hun Pue, Lin Yiu Hong, and Chang She.

Immigration agents intercepted the suspects' vessel, the FV Yeong Fa Chern 01, which was carrying three undocumented Filipino fishermen.

The Filipinos were identified as Salvador Santarosa, 36, of Antipolo, Rizal; John Maamo, 36, of Oriental Mindoro; and Woody Mancha, 36, of Francisco, Quezon province.

Alimar Etrone, Davao alien control officer, said the Filipino fishermen had passports but failed to present seamen's books and working permits from the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration.

Etrone said the foreigners smuggled Filipino job seekers out of the country by letting them board their vessels off the Davao Gulf.

The fishing vessel arrived at the Daliao fish port in Toril on Jan. 27. ***Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

END of an era? The government launches crackdown on "wagwag" outlets in Baguio City.
TOOTS SOBERANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Baguio traders tell GMA: But Luli loves 'wagwag'

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Several Baguio *wagwag* (rummage sale) houses cater to a special client--President Macapagal-Arroyo's daughter Luli.

For that fact alone, the President's comment endorsing a crackdown on *wagwag* houses all over the country surprised used clothes dealers here, the Inquirer learned on Thursday.

"Isn't she (Ms Macapagal) aware that her daughter loves our *wagwag*? Has (Luli) bought all (the merchandise) she needed, that's why the government can now close us down?" a *wagwag* dealer asked.

But Social Welfare Secretary Corazon Soliman on Wednesday said the administrative order she issued had addressed a more serious problem.

Soliman said she was tracking down reports that imported merchandise, abandoned and confiscated by local customs officials at seaports or airports, may have found their way to Baguio's multimillion-peso *wagwag* business.

Administrative Order 19, which guides customs officials and non-government organizations in importing second hand garments for donations, will try to plug "these leaks."

Ms Macapagal said the law prohibits the importation of used clothing.

'Hypocrite'

Almost immediately, several *wagwag* traders here called Ms Macapagal a "hypocrite," saying her daughter Luli had often patronized *wagwag* houses whenever the Macapagals spend their holidays in this city.

Ms Macapagal and her family spent the long All Saints' Day holiday here, as well as the Christmas and New Year holidays.

During these holidays, Luli, accompanied by a security escort, bought items in *wagwag* houses here.

Soliman stressed that her order did not include directives to confiscate or burn imported second-hand merchandise items that are on retail.

She said she had checked with staffers of Baguio Mayor Bernardo Vergara, who had endorsed the *wagwag* trade here, as well as Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II on their recommendations for Baguio's lucrative trade.

"I also asked the Department of Trade and Industry what policy they imposed on the (*wagwag*). (Roxas) said they had no ready policy (to control *wagwag*) because it was in the realm of an open market. But the textile industry is of course complaining, because they are dying from the *ukay-ukay* (another term for *wagwag*). The (rummage sale business) draws a large profit margin compared to the garments trade, which has to pay taxes," she said in Filipino.

Social dilemma

"But at the same time, we must also acknowledge the service *ukay-ukay* provides to the poorer sectors of society. It becomes affordable to them. I also know, and this is not new to everyone, that not all (*wagwag*) customers are poor . . . To me, it's a societal dilemma."

She said petty grafters could have targeted genuine imported garments, which are hauled into local ports but are confiscated when the shipments remain unclaimed for a prescribed period.

"*Hindi nila nakukuha ang damit kasi hindi nila kayang bayaran ang* tax (Some importers no longer claim their merchandise because they can't pay the taxes due these imports). So they go through this long process of waiting for the importers to get their clothing and garments, and after a certain time, they are forfeited," she said.

The confiscated garments are usually donated to the Department of Social Welfare and Development for distribution to calamity-hit communities.

But stolen merchandise could have been distributed to *wagwag* outlets in Baguio and the rest of Northern Luzon.

Many *wagwag* shops here already carry price tags as high as P1,900 for a complete suit or P500 for a pair of jeans—which are slightly cheaper than brand-new items.

'My daughter's life had gone to waste'

STA. CRUZ, Ilocos Sur—"*Wala pa ring hustisya. Sayang ang anak ko* (Justice still eludes us. My daughter's life had gone to waste)."

This was the statement of Efren Chavez during the first anniversary of the death of his daughter, Army 2nd Lt. Jessica Chavez, on Saturday.

Members of the Chavez family and their friends offered prayers for Jessica in their house at Barangay Padaoil here.

Jessica Chavez, 23, a member of the Philippine Military Academy's Sanghaya Class 2000, was found dead in her barracks at Fort Bonifacio on Feb. 9 last year. She had a bullet wound in the chest.

The National Bureau of Investigation ruled out suicide in the death of Chavez, but her family believed that she was murdered and her death was not accidental.

The elder Chavez said they were hopeful that they would attain justice soon.

In August last year, the military's judge advocate General found probable cause to try Chavez's three superiors before a general court martial.

Col. Fernando Guerrero, JAG pre-trial investigator, recommended the trial of Maj. Ramon Dizon, Maj. Ricardo Visaya and Capt. Domingo Campos for violating Section 96 (conduct unbecoming of an officer and gentleman) and Section 97 (acts prejudicial to good order and military discipline) of the Articles of War.

Dizon and Campos were accused of improperly handling the evidence related to Jessica's death.

Chavez said Visaya had turned witness and they were hopeful that court martial proceedings against Dizon and Campos would be completed soon.

Chavez said they are expecting a decision in March.

The proceedings, he said, were being monitored by the office of Armed Forces chief of staff, Gen. Diomedio Villanueva, after the family sought President Macapagal-Arroyo's help in the case last year.

Chavez said another case, a criminal complaint, was filed by the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group against Dizon, Campos, Visaya and Army Private Mary Anne Juanitas before the provincial prosecutor's office of Rizal. ***Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Muslim pilgrims reenact biblical events in 'hajj'

By Nash B. Maulana
Contributor

AS ISLAM and Orthodox Christianity join the Vatican in the "Prayer for World Peace," able Muslims of all races, colors, nations and tribes embarked on a three-week *hajj* pilgrimage this month to the cities of Mecca and Madina in Saudi Arabia.

Hajj is the season when Islamic authorities openly denounce terror and wars "that destroy properties and lives in many nations."

Televised preaching in all mosques also emphasize on the Muslims' belief in God and the biblical prophets, from Abraham and Jacob to Moses and Jesus, and "we do not make distinction among them (as) we bow down our heads before One God."

Afif Tabara, an eminent Muslim scholar, said "the call for peace is one of the main purposes of the pilgrimage," where Muslims declare God as "the Author of peace, the Source of peace" and before God, implore a life of peace.

Mecca and Medina belonged to the ancient Kingdom of Beersheba, the refuge of the distressed Hagar in the Book of Genesis and where she gave birth to Ishmael.

Biblical roots

Hajj pilgrims perform rituals that reenact a biblical tradition rooted in the times of Abraham and the prophets after him. After the deluge in Noah's time, the Koran recounts (II:127-128) that "Abraham and his son Ishmael raised the foundation of the Holy House of God (Baitullah)," which is also called the *Ka'abah*.

The Sacred House is described in the Book of Genesis as the shrine in a southern country that the King of Beersheba wanted to take on giant elephants.

The tomb of Eve, although it is not included in the pilgrims' itinerary or open for tourism, is also found in the present-day Saudi Arabia, particularly in Jeddah. Even archeologists are not allowed to take photographs of it.

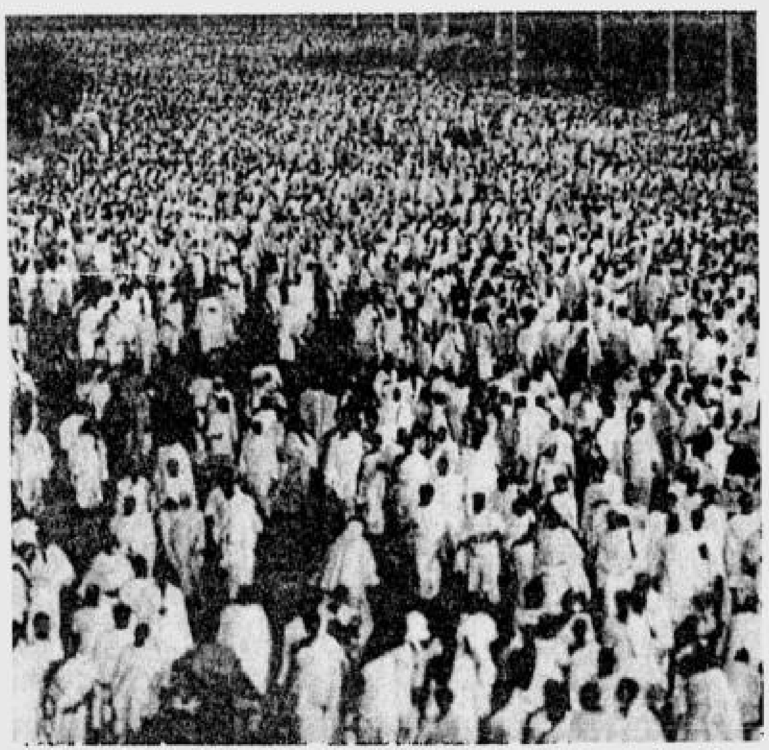
Slaughtering a sacrificial lamb (*kurban*) for each pilgrim is another biblical ritual known in Abraham's time. The meat of the *kurban* is served in common meals at the *Eid'l adha* (Feast of the Sacrifice) and shared by the rich and poor; the weak and powerful, the black and white, and the yellow and red.

In the middle of the desert, they chant Arabic rhymes, declaring their "presence" before this huge assembly of humanity "as Thou, Allah hath command (us)."

Prince Abdul Majeed bin Abdulaziz, governor of Mecca, leads the opening ceremonies of the pilgrimage at the Haram Mosque (Sacred Mosque) along with Muslim heads of states and journalists invited to cover the religious journey.

Center of worship

The *Ka'abah* is not an object of worship among Muslims, but it has become their center of worship where heads, face down, meet in prayers. Prostrating as a main part of the worship also told of the prophets, from Abraham to Jesus and Muhammad (Genesis 17:3; Numbers 20:6; I Kings 18:42; Joshua 5:14; Matthew 26:39 and Koran 22:77)



MUSLIM pilgrims walk upon arriving at Mt. Arafat in Saudi Arabia. FILE PHOTO

Pilgrims make a seven-round walk around the *Ka'abah* as part of their reenactment of the worship performed by Abraham and Ishmael, as well as Muhammad, during their times on that hallowed ground.

The Mosque of the Prophet Muhammad in Madina has been renovated to become one of the world's most modern places of worship, equipped with computer-controlled water and air-conditioning systems, and a huge three-layer underground parking space.

Tribute to women

Between the hillocks of Safa and Marwa, which Hagar traveled in frantic search for water, pilgrims jog or run for seven turns, back and forth, as part of the ritual called "*sa'y*."

The ritual is performed as a tribute to Hagar, who was privileged to talk to God (Genesis 16:7), an occasion that subsequently left for her and the entire human race a landmark miracle in the perpetually flowing spring of Zamzam (Beerlahairoi to the Hebrews of the Old Testament).

The Islamic pilgrimage also serves as an occasion for Muslim leaders and their followers to undertake *sohura* (consultation).

It also provides a venue for a multitude of economic activities, from simple trading to large-scale agreements on commerce and investments.

For instance, sheep raisers in Europe and Asia would enter into a trade agreement with the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) for a long-term financing (*ijara*), so as to ensure enough supply of lamb for the *hajj* on Julhaji, the 11th month of the lunar Hijra calendar.

In modern-day *hajj*, the IDB provides pilgrims extended trading services for easier access to lamb by accepting payments (roughly $100 each) for slaughter and distribution of lamb meat to the poor or for serving them during the Feast of Sacrifice, marking the end of the pilgrimage.

No to terrorism

Bank revenues derived from these religious services are, in turn, made open for domestic and foreign trade investments—an economic opportunity that Arabs and, in fact, all Muslims cannot afford to lose by being economically isolated as an offshoot of any unfortunate event like the Sept. 11 terror attack on the United Sates.

And it is unthinkable in this biggest gathering of Muslims that Islamic nations will want to lose their financial strength in Islamic investments worldwide, presumably by tolerating terrorism or coddling terrorists, which can isolate them politically, and consequently, their business interests from the community of nations.

In his paper titled "Globalization and its Implications for Islamic Financial Institutions" (1998), Prof. John Hopkins of the University of Baltimore did not foresee Islamic investments being isolated in the New World Order—of course, minus the current labels of terrorism that the West is virtually associating with the Arab world.

Before the terror attacks in the US, prospects were also bright for Islamic investments in the West—one thing that the Arabs and Islamic investors could not afford to lose, much less for senseless killings. This was noted by Prof. Rodney Wilson of the Durham University in the UK in his "Analysis of Challenges and Opportunities of Islamic Banking and Financial Operations in the West."

Terror attacks and their consequences on economies and the world Muslim community constitute a major setback to Islamic investments, if not to the very lives of ordinary Muslims.

***Nash B. Maulana**, a former INQUIRER correspondent, is an on-line student of Ahmed Deedat, an eminent Muslim scholar of the Christian Bible.*

Palawan wins 'Gawad Pangulo' ecological awards

By Geraldford P. Ticke
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—Palawan, the country's last ecological frontier, won several top "Gawad Pangulo sa Kapaligiran" awards.

In ceremonies held on Friday at the Heroes Hall of Malacañang, President Macapagal-Arroyo handed to Palawan the environmental award for the Barracuda Lake in Coron as the "cleanest and greenest" inland body of water (lake category). Gov. Joel Reyes received the award.

Reyes said the award was a testimony of the Palaweños' commitment to keep the province clean and green.

The Estrella River Falls in Narra town placed second in the Cleanest and Greenest Inland Body of Water (river falls category).

For the Cleanest Local Government Unit (category A), Brooke's Point also won second place.

Coron Vice Mayor Marjo Reyes and Narra Mayor Lucena Demaala received the awards for their respective towns.

Aside from these awards, Palawan won other Gawad Pangulo sa Kapaligiran awards.

It is the first province to be cited Hall of Famer as the Cleanest and Greenest Province.

The Kayangan Lake in Coron is another Hall of Fame clincher as the Cleanest and Greenest Inland Body of Water (lake category).

Hall of Fame

Also a Hall of Fame titleholder as the Cleanest and Greenest Component City is Puerto Princesa City.

Palawan launched on Thursday a reinvigorated environmental and conservation program called Kilusan Sagip Kalikasan.

Reyes said the KSK would have a three-pronged approach—environmental protection, poverty alleviation and sustainable resource management.

Created through Executive Order No. 27, the KSK is a multisectoral campaign involving the public and private sectors, the academe, non-government and people's organizations, and the church, youth and media sectors.

"I urged all Palaweños to unite to fight the illegalities against the environment. We are striving for a people-initiated resource management because without the support of the people from all levels, KSK will not succeed," Reyes said.

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

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INQUIRER*Mindanao*
Editor **Jun Bandayrel** ◎ *Bureau Chief* **Nico A. Alconaba**

MNLF's Nasser: Peace advocate

By Marrio Mapanao
Cotabato

BURIED in a news article about a murder in Cotabato province (PDI/01/11/02) was another story of the gruesome killing of a Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) leader and two of his children in Aleosan town.

Three men wielding Armalite and Carbine rifles were said to have entered the house of Nasser Sambutol, MNLF district commander, at the BLISS site in Baranga Pagangan.

They shot and killed Nasser while he and his pregnant wife Aisa were having dinner under a makeshift canvas.

Two of their children, aged 16 and 4 years old, who were playing outside the house, also died from bullet wounds.

Surviving the attack were Aisa, who had two bullet wounds in the left thigh, six children, two adopted relatives and Aisa's parents.

As with the murder of several other Maguindanaoan community leaders in the past, no one is talking. The usual explanation is to attribute it to the cultural rido, i.e., deep-seated family grudge, or that the killers were after Nasser's licensed firearms.

But silence reigns, and neighbors go about their lives as if nothing happened.

Peace builder

At the Habitat-Peace Build Christmas party, Commander Nasser was among those who expressed solidarity with the housing project for the poor. Unassuming, small and frail, he was a peace and development advocate.

In the light of the government's peace agreement with the MNLF, Nasser was an active NGO member, linking up projects with the local government.

In December last year, he represented civil society groups of Aleosan in an orientation seminar on sustainable development and local development planning in Cotabato City. The seminar was part of the Local Government Support Program, assisted by the Canadian International Development Agency.

Working with the Integral Development Services (IDS) of Midsayap town and with the funding support of the United Nations Multi-Donor Program, Nasser was involved in the social preparation of Maguindanaoan communities for a water system project.

His partnership with the government may have aroused suspicions that he was an intelligence asset of the military, especially since he was active in the campaign against carabao rustlers.

Barely a week after he died, a case of carabao theft was reported in Barangay Tomado.

Nasser supported his family by contracting and selling gmelina lumber that his 16-year-old son Mohamad cut down with a family-owned chainsaw. Mohamad himself was shot in the head and died by his father's killers.

Just days earlier, Nasser had met with Nenet Guevara, administrator of the Midsayap Habitat project, and expressed his desire to donate one-fourth hectare of property entrusted to him by a murdered nephew's family.

The parcel of land, which was the site of the burned Szopad (Special Zone of Peace and Development) cooperative warehouse, was to be turned over to the Peace Build program.

Nasser said the land for the social housing project should be open for occupancy to both Muslim and Christian home-partners.

Aisa

Nasser's pregnant wife Aisa, who suffered bullet wounds, was brought to the Cotabato City Regional Hospital and confined for five days. She was not able to attend the burial of her husband and children. According to Islamic practice, the dead must be buried no longer than 24 hours after the attack.

The family's only carabao had to be sold for the holding of the kanduli, gathering family members and friends on the 7th, 20th and 40th day, sixth month and first year after death.

Aisa is still due for surgery as one of the two bullets fired at her was still lodged in her thigh. The other bullet exited through her back.

Despite meager financial help from concerned individuals, Aisa's eldest daughter Helen, 19, was able to buy small doses of antibiotics and other medicines for her mother.

With Aisa expected to give birth soon, anxiety over more expenses has gripped the household. Family members were staying at the house of Aisa's brother, a tricycle driver, in Cotabato City.

Helen, a first year college student at the Southern Christian College in Midsayap, had to stop attending her classes. School officials offered her a partial "work scholarship," but she does not know where to get the remaining funds.

Helen's schooling used to be supported by her brother Mohamad through his chainsaw earnings. At times eating meals without any ulam (viand), Helen is determined to pursue her studies and help her younger brothers and sisters.

Nasser's favorite child, Pendato, 4, who was called Sammy at the day care center in Barangay Nalapaan, died from a bullet wound in the back.

With her brothers, Pendato and Mohamad, and Nasser gone, Helen keeps moving on with other surviving members of her family and eagerly awaits her mother's new-born who would somehow help fill the void in their lives.

Postscript: Aisa gave birth on Feb. 7 at a house in Cotabato City, with the assistance of two midwives. She was refused admission at the Cotabato City Regional Hospital, as she "was not an emergency case" although she was already bleeding when she was brought there. Hospital authorities have denied the claim.

COMMANDER Nasser Sambutol: Why was he killed?

***Marrio Mapanao** is an NGO volunteer based in Cotabato.*

Writing in a borrowed tongue isn't easy

ERRORS in newspapers happen and they can be corrected by pointing these out in the "Letters to the Editor" section but not by suggesting that newspaper copies be recalled and a "revised edition" be printed.

I believe this is not done in democratic countries where there is respect for freedom of the press, no matter how amateur the editors or how parochial the publication.

Putting out any publication is always a learning experience. It is wonderful to witness young people working on their publication because in the process, they also try to realize their potentials in a world that has no courses in teaching talent.

DUGONG MINDANAW

Christine Godinez-Ortega

*We want to know what the Mindanaoan youngblood, middle-aged blood or high blood are thinking about what's happening in Mindanao and the rest of the country. – **ED.***

In the publication business, no one puts out a perfect product after one or two issues. National newspapers employ professionals but they, too, have their share of errors.

An error-free publication, therefore, given time and care, takes years to achieve. As far as I know, it is only the Reader's Digest magazine that gives readers cash prizes if they can spot typographical errors between its covers. And to think that every issue of this American invention is prepared months in advance, by native speakers yet.

And this brings me to tackle writing in a borrowed language, English, which is difficult for anyone who hasn't mastered it. No one thinks his use of English is perfect, except many grammarians who seldom write and publish.

Personally, and unless he aspires to be a writer, I don't care if the next guy speaks or writes English well. We use English today because of an accident in our history, besides its being the language of the world's powerful countries such as the United States and England. When these countries lose power and yes, prestige, English will go the way of Latin.

How I admire those who write in our native languages because from their pens flow the blood of their forefathers, so to speak. And if you must know, more Filipino writers in English have turned bilingual and trilingual today to keep faith with their heritage—certainly a paradox in our post-colonial times.

Anyone who attempts to write in English, therefore, is the brave one, not only because he reveals his thoughts and feelings in a form he has chosen to express them but he also advertises his self-worth in an organization.

But there is no excuse for poor mechanics that read amateurism. After having learned spelling, grammar and punctuation, writers concentrate on writing techniques, among other things, in their lifetime pursuit for excellence even as the word choice in literature, according to author Janet Burroway is, at best, instinct.

In journalism, regular assignments turn the neophyte into a seasoned reporter and I don't mean the who-what-where-when-why-how kind. If talented through quirks in his gene pool, he learns the trade quickly and more if he gets to work with a sensitive editor, a godsend in the business.

And I should put in here a word on the uses of words not yet accepted as standard English. Sure, we all know about the regional Englishes where peculiarities of say, Hong Kong English or Philippine English, occur, but we must always understand that language is a system of signs. Words or phrases, therefore, must be taken in context in the statements where they are set.

Our difficulty as human beings is that we are always judgmental. At the same time, humans that we are, we also make mistakes.

Now if more critical comments remain addressed to the winds, we'll be convinced it is because of envy, which may still be a good thing since indifference is the uglier head.

Ours is a small community. It won't take much if we join hands to encourage talent, to understand the complexities and nuances of a borrowed language, and to affirm our belief in a free press. Spread the word.

***Christine Godinez-Ortega** is an INQUIRER correspondent based in Iligan City. She teaches literature at the Mindanao State University-Iligan Institute of Technology in Iligan City.*

Dressing up cigarette lighters

By Ramon Jorge Sarabosing
Contributor

THERE are cigarette lighters and lighters and lighters. But the ones Primy Ann Mancao Magno of Butuan City has and how she makes them is exceptional.

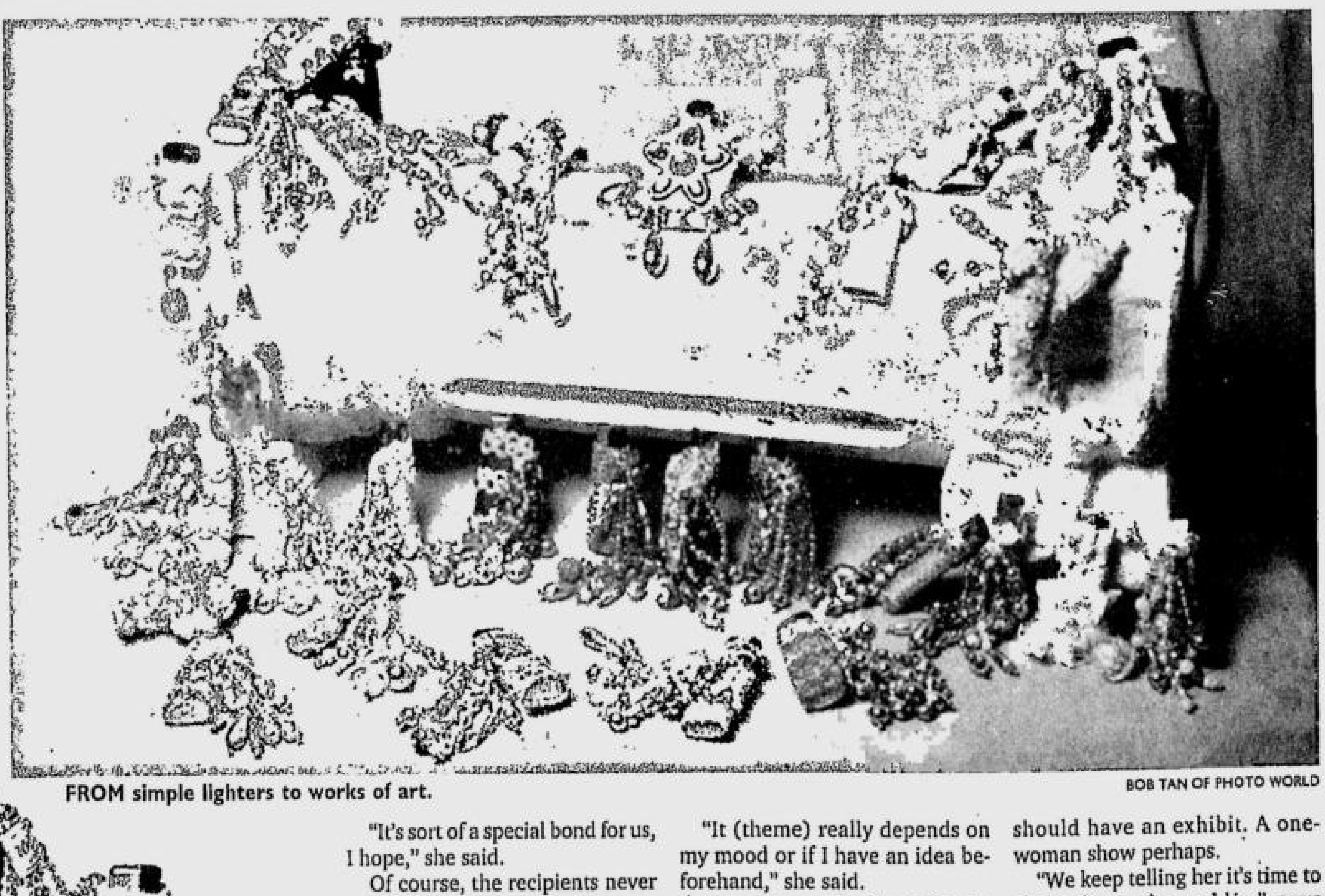
Take a close look at the photographs. The lighters are covered, no, dressed, yes, dressed up. Not only well but elegantly. Like a fashion designer to her showcase collection, these lighters are Primy Ann's wonderful masterpieces.

One for Ripley's Believe It Or Not, you might say. These ordinary lighters' metamorphosis comes from the artist's laborious interest and discipline in transforming small items into works of art.

"Whey I see a tiny object, say, a plastic ball, I try to imagine what I can do with it," said Primy Ann, a shy businesswoman and mother of three.

And where did she learn all of these? "I didn't go to an art school. I guess it's just determination and patience to come up with something unique."

Like most artists, the lighters are dear to her. She never sells any of them. But she does give them as gifts to close and special friends on special occasions.


BOB TAN OF PHOTO WORLD

FROM simple lighters to works of art.

COLLECTOR'S items all.

"It's sort of a special bond for us, I hope," she said.

Of course, the recipients never use them; they are placed in a special corner meant for collector's items.

Guess how many of them she has made in a span of three years? "Around 500," she says.

On further examination, the lighters are playful and detailed combinations of pearl beads, crystals, rhinestones, glass beads, sequins and decorative ribbons welded in themes.

"It (theme) really depends on my mood or if I have an idea beforehand," she said.

Samples are the Great Gatsby collection, Centennial, the Bridal Parade, even dynamite and several other eye-popping pieces.

"I use a glue gun to put them together one by one. I usually work at night, but I don't think I'm prolific," she says. "Sometimes, I stop working for weeks or months."

Her family and friends think she should have an exhibit. A one-woman show perhaps.

"We keep telling her it's time to share it to the public," says younger sister Nova Ramirez.

For Agnes Carlos, one of the city's leading entrepreneur, Primy Ann works can serve as an inspiration and encouragement to housewives who want to harness their skills and hidden creativity.

After all, we never know what hardworking magic hands can do.

Best rattan weaver in town is blind

From page A1

Inside the house, the fair-skinned man with a pair of sunglasses breaks into a smile that shows his good-natured self. A group of youngsters watch his every move as he skins a rattan wicker with his *ugwa* (knife).

"It is important that every rattan twig we use is of the same diameter as the others," Luh-hi explains as he patiently describes every detail of his work, like a schoolteacher doing a demonstration before his students.

His earnings from the sale of woven rattan products alone enabled Luh-hi to buy a piece of lot in Comonal and build a concrete house, arguably one of the best homes in the village.

"I had to work doubly hard, oftentimes late into the night, just to be able to produce enough items to sell. After selling, I would use the money to buy construction materials one at a time," he says.

Every time he saves a few hundred pesos, he buys materials like a roof sheet or a sack of cement.

Hard work

"Such display of hard work and determination serves as a challenge for able-bodied individuals like me to strive for a better life," says Victor Martin, 27, a neighbor.

"Luh-hi loves being in the company of others. So those who visit him, he repays them with his hospitality and a free lecture on weaving," Martin says.

Village folk, mostly out-of-school youths who spend time with Luh-hi during their break from farming chores, have learned to craft some of the simpler rattan items. A few of such items have been sold together with Luh-hi's products.

Among his most popular products are the *tinalih* (cylindrical baskets) of varied sizes, *ulbong* (urn-shaped rice containers), *ballengaw* (shoulder bag), *hape-eng* or *pasiking* (rattan backpacks) and *pallungan* (bowls). These items are priced from P400 to P1,000.

Luh-hi's creations are remarkable for their intricate designs and patterns that only people with eyesight are expected to produce.

According to Luh-hi, his designs are the product of his sheer imagination, transformed into a work of art by his uncanny sense of touch around the sequence of patterns. Some friends, though, helped him with some of the designs.

At the moment, he is spending for the construction a small smoking chamber for his rattan products to give them an "antique look."

"My clients tell me there is a greater demand for antique-looking products," he says.

Stricken by measles

The sixth of 10 children, Luh-hi was stricken by a severe case of measles that left him blind when he was only 10 months old, according to his mother, Indanom Buhong, 61.

In a small hut in Barangay Ducligan in Banaue, Ifugao, his father Ginannoy Buhong, now 65, taught the young Luh-hi how to turn rattan twigs into works of art.

Learning the trade wasn't easy for Luh-hi.

At 10, he was often frustrated that he would throw away whatever he had finished. Through years of practice, his work gradually improved. At 15, Luh-hi made his first few pesos from his rattan baskets.

Failing to enter grade school and having limited studies in Braille, the language for the blind, Luh-hi, then 19, thought a better life was waiting for him in the city.

In 1990, he left for Manila and ventured into massage services for a year. But the limited income from it, coupled with the high cost of living in the city, prompted him to quit the business and return to Nueva Vizcaya.

According to his mother, Luh-hi is better off in the province because he nets about P2,000 a month selling woven rattan items to as far as Banaue, Baguio City and Dagupan City.

Lately, however, sales have not been too encouraging, Luh-hi laments.

"My buyers, like those at the Mines View Park in Baguio, had told me to stop deliveries. They said tourists were not that many these days. They were blaming the (insurgency) problem in Mindanao," he says.

He also has to travel to markets far away. "I have to hire a guide for P100 a day who will take me places," Luhi says.

"Sometimes, I think customers don't give me much attention because I'm blind. They think I'm foolish," he adds.

Sometimes, Luh-hi has a hard time collecting from his buyers, some of whom still owe him P10,000.

"I send my nephews to collect, but they often return home with nothing. Maybe it is because I'm blind that they don't have any respect for me," he says.

Even so, being blind has its advantages. For one, Luh-hi said, robbers have spared him despite the fact that he brings along a few thousand pesos in his frequent travels.

"People think I am just a beggar. Nobody knows that I carry some money," he says.

"Nonetheless, it's an inspiration that other people envy me for my weaving skills."

MORO Christian People's Alliance condemn President Macapagal's remarks that those oppose to RP-US Balikatan exercise are not Filipinos. JOAN BONDOC

Avoid queues, file tax returns thru Internet

From page A1

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho yesterday said Filipinos need no longer endure the long queues this April by paying their taxes electronically under a new system adopted by the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

"Our people can now use the Internet to file their tax returns and even to pay (their taxes)," Camacho said during the President's weekly program, "May Gloria Ang Bukas Mo."

Under the system, a taxpayer can ask his bank to deduct the tax due him from his savings account.

Camacho said the BIR recently signed agreements with the Philippine National Bank and the Land Bank of the Philippines to facilitate tax payments through the Internet.

"Our taxpayers no longer have to go to the bank to pay their taxes. Through the Internet, they can use the money in their (savings) accounts to pay the BIR," Camacho said.

He did not say if the new system was already operational.

The deadline for the filing of income tax returns by individuals earning purely compensation income is on April 15.

Ms Macapagal said she hoped the new system would do away with long queues, recounting her own experience in lining up to pay her taxes.

"It was a year after I got married and I was in the family way. My husband was studying law. So I lined up to pay our taxes, but others in the line saw my condition and they let me go first," she said.

Ms Macapagal also announced that the BIR surpassed its collection target through the computerization of its transactions.

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‘Marcos wasn’t like that’

From page A1

rate" for the President to issue such a statement because many critics, including Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, were motivated by a "desire to uphold the interest and sovereignty of the country."

"That is not right," Pimentel said. "Let us not make a sweeping condemnation of those who are denouncing the Balikatan."

In Baguio City, Nathanael Santiago, secretary general of the party-list group Bayan Muna, said that if the President was looking for "Abu Sayyaf lovers," she should subject her military to a "body search."

"Weren't they colluding with the bandits for a share of the ransom money?" he said.

Santiago said Ms Macapagal had virtually included in her list of "Abu Sayyaf lovers" an international network of civil libertarians, including American rights crusaders, who were opposed to Bush's "deceptive war against terrorism."

"This is a war that, from the eyes of international civil libertarians, President Macapagal-Arroyo had allowed to be waged on Philippine soil," Santiago said.

Gung-ho

Congresswoman Rosales said the President was being "gung-ho in toeing the line of Bush and in blindly following" US dictates on how the anti-terrorism war should be waged.

"In the case of Bush, his tough talk is backed with military might. Hers is all bark and no bite," Rosales said.

She suggested that, "before it's too late," the President "learn to listen to informed criticisms on her current anti-terrorist policies from Filipinos who are in the best position to advise her on what is best for the nation and the people."

Rosales said that because of its efforts to justify violations of sovereignty, Malacañang was "now preoccupied with silly details as to who should take command during the period of operations" in Balikatan 02-1.

"Is it not clear that the US has never allowed its vessels to be inspected when they land on Philippine territory whether by sea or by air?" Rosales said. "And they get away with this without a whimper from the foreign affairs or defense department."

Rep. Jose Apolinario Lozada, chair of the House foreign affairs committee who had criticized some aspects of Balikatan 02-1 including the absence of guidelines before the US deployment, declined to comment.

Lozada, who had been reprimanded for his critical stance, said he did not want to quarrel with the President.

Pimentel himself was in a conciliatory mood. "The President is on the right track in seeking US military support to completely neutralize the Abu Sayyaf terrorists without American soldiers getting involved in any combat mission," he said.

But Sen. Edgardo Angara said the President's statements were "reckless," tended to "divide and polarize Filipinos," and posed "a chilling effect on a free exchange of opinions."

TRAPPED in the tug-of-war between the anti-riot cops and the ralliers who stormed the gates of the Palace to denounce the presence of the US troops in the Philippines is AP photographer Pat Roque.

ROMY HOMILLADA

Hateful

At the weekly Kapihan sa Cypress forum in Quezon City, Renato Reyes Jr., spokesperson of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, said his own mother "hated" what the President had said.

Two new anti-Balikatan groups made their public debut yesterday at the forum, deriving instant ammunition from Ms Macapagal's tough talk.

Bangsamoro Resist, whose convenors include former Moro rebel Abdulla Camlian, assailed Ms Macapagal for making "too general" a statement.

"There's no other terrorist in this world but the US because it started small wars around the globe for profit," said Camlian, a founding member of the Moro National Liberation Front.

Another new anti-Balikatan group, UP-Rage, said the President, a former economics professor at the University of the Philippines, should revisit her academic roots.

"It is unfortunate that she is not fully aware of the long history of US aggression. This can explain why she sees the US as friendly country instead of a dangerous enemy," said Roland Tolentino, professor at the UP Film Department.

Tolentino said his group would pressure the UP administration to make a stand on Balikatan 02-1 reminiscent of the position the UP community took in 1991 against the continued presence of US bases in the country.

Ms Macapagal's usual critics also had their say.

The Ecumenical Movement for Justice and Peace said she had "redefined nationalism as 'pro-American,' anti-terrorism as 'pro-Balikatan,' and friendship as 'submissiveness to the whims and caprices of her US imperialist masters.'"

"Her arrogant stance against critics of Balikatan makes her a real US puppet par excellence," said an EMJP statement.

Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas chair Rafael Mariano said the President had "obviously run out of arguments and resorted to highly illogical and ridiculous statements regarding US intervention in the country."

"We remind Ms Macapagal that the groups she labeled 'not Filipino' are the ones who catapulted her to power," he added.

The human rights watchdog Karapatan said: "Calling us (pro) terrorists can never erase the validity of our arguments. Branding our protests un-Filipino will not negate the fact (that Balikatan) is an affront to the Constitution and tramples upon our sovereignty."

Kilusang Mayo Uno secretary general Elmer Labog said Ms Macapagal's statements would "definitely gain (her) more enemies than allies."

Offensive

Bayan Muna's Santiago said Ms Macapagal should start mending fences because her statements had offended her own allies.

"She is making war on the people who (brought her to power in January 2001), like Sen. Joker Arroyo, (former Sen. Wigberto) Tañada, (Bayan Muna Rep.) Satur Ocampo, and even local government officials," he said. "She has practically severed whatever was left of a good working relationship with her allies."

Bayan-Pampanga chair Frank Mangulabnan said Ms Macapagal was "a hypocrite" in assailing the critics of Balikatan 02-1 because she herself had become "a US puppet" in allowing US intervention in the war against the Abu Sayyaf.

Mangulabnan also clarified that militant organizations like Bayan were not anti-American but anti-US imperialism.

He said the deployment of US troops in combat zones to hunt down the Abu Sayyaf was "a ploy by the US to intervene in our internal affairs."

"This is imperialism," he said.

In Manila, Sanlakas president Wilson Fortaleza described Ms Macapagal's remarks as "the height of madness and rhetoric."

"By calling the critics of the military exercise 'anti-Filipino' and 'Abu Sayyaf lovers,' she sank to the gutter," Fortaleza said. "Instead of raising the debate to a higher level, she prefers to master McCarthyism, the art of witch-hunting."

Fortaleza said the President was deceiving the Filipinos by reducing the issue of Balikatan 02-1 to a choice between the Americans and the Abu Sayyaf.

"But we know very well that this is not a choice but a trick," he said, adding that the President was merely airing strong sound bites to prop up loose arguments.

Warlike

The fisher folk group Pambansang Lakas ng Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya) said the President's remarks were a declaration of war against "millions of patriotic and decent Filipinos."

"It is a declaration of war against critics of US intervention and wars of aggression. The President's statement is irresponsible, stupid and lacks objectivity," Pamalakaya national chair Rodolfo Sambajon said in a statement.

He said that instead of resorting to name-calling, terrorist-tag-baiting and trial by publicity, the President should face her critics in a national debate.

"She cannot defend the political legitimacy and moral soundness of these senseless Balikatan exercises. She has no option but to imitate the equally war freak and global terrorist US President George W. Bush," Sambajon said.

Pamalakaya information officer Gerry Albert Corpuz accused Ms Macapagal of being a "songbird for US terrorists" and a "coddler of the world's No. 1 terrorist nation."

"Her puppetry, arrogance and political banditry show how much she cares for the US terrorists at the expense of our people's sovereign and basic rights," Corpuz said. ***Reports from Juliet L. Javellana, Volt Contreras, Rocky Nazareno, TJ Burgonio and Andrea T. Echaves in Manila; Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau; Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

Signing of Balikatan rules postponed again

From page A1

availability of the participants."

Gen. Diomedio Villanueva, chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, and his counterpart, US Admiral Dennis Blair, chief of the US Pacific Command, are to sign the TOR.

Guingona is to approve it, along with US Embassy charge d'affaires Robert Fitts for Powell.

Legal points

Tiglao said the US-proposed changes in the TOR concerned "legal" points.

"One example is they added in the last part that this legal document should not be taken as a treaty," he said. "We said it is obvious it is not a treaty. The TOR refers only to the Balikatan exercise."

Tiglao said there was no more debate on the Philippine military's authority over Filipino and US soldiers for the duration of Balikatan 02-1.

"There's no problem there. It's clear that the American troops will not operate independently, and the TOR clearly emphasizes our sovereignty," he said.

In the document approved by Philippine officials, it is stated that Balikatan 02-1 will be jointly implemented by the Philippine and US exercise co-directors "under the direction of the AFP chief of staff."

"In no instance will US forces operate independently during field training exercises. Nothing shall infringe on the AFP Unit Commander's authority," the document said.

"The revised draft has (Guingona's) approval," Tiglao said.

"It's just slightly different (from the one they earlier approved)."

The Vice President reportedly relayed his comments on the US-proposed changes to Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes and Justice Undersecretary Manuel Teehankee.

Tiglao said the President saw no need to attend the Friday meeting of the Cabinet oversight committee because she had been informed "there wasn't really much of an issue."

He said the technical group composed of foreign affairs, justice and defense officials would again confer with their US counterparts to finalize the TOR.

War room

Lecaros said three companies—Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., Eastern Telecommunications and Philippine Communications Co.—were being considered to set up the "war room" where the teleconference would be held.

"This is the first time that the DFA will hold such a teleconference. We don't have a ready facility for that," he said.

While the US Embassy has a top-of-the-line war room, the Philippine government cannot allow its use for the teleconference because the embassy is part of US territory, Lecaros said.

He said putting up monitors that would allow a "face to face" conversation between Guingona and Powell was being considered.

"To save time and expense, the two officials will have to talk face to face through the teleconference and agree on the final contents of the TOR," Lecaros said.

He said the DFA did not expect major changes in the TOR because the document was drafted by both Philippine and US military officials.

Boy enchanted as GMA grants his wishes

From page A1

in cash when he told her that he needed money for snacks. She also offered Jerome a cup of chicken noodles after learning that this was his favorite snack.

Jerome's grandmother, Felicidad Baltazar, said that the little boy had wished to see the President because he often saw her on TV.

From a distance, Jerome had seen the President in her previous trips to his hometown of San Jose, Nueva Ecija, during the senatorial elections last year. But this time she was right there beside him and attending to his every wish.

Wish-granting foundation

Jerome's happiest day was made possible by the Make-A-Wish Foundation, a non-profit organization that has been granting wishes for the past two years to children who are terminally-ill.

The foundation, first set up in the United States in 1980 and now located in 23 countries, is the world's largest wish-granting foundation.

Foundation organizers said that Jerome was the 52nd child whose wishes had been granted by the foundation. There are around 15 more children on its waiting list.

Jerome was actually the second child that Ms Macapagal had visited in three days.

Last Thursday, the President met 11-year-old Chanes Victoriano at the Palace. Like Jerome, Chanes is a beneficiary of the foundation.

Chanes got his wish to meet the President who, in turn, gave him his other wishes: a pair of rubber shoes and a trip to Cebu. Ms Macapagal also gave a job to the boy's father, who is a carpenter.

The foundation finds children under 18 to help by writing to hospitals. The hospitals in turn refer the children to the foundation, according to Celine Madamba, a board director of the foundation and INQUIRER's corporate relations manager.

Of the 52 terminally ill children that the foundation had helped, about 30 have passed away, Madamba said.

The foundation's latest loss was 10-year-old Jasper Santillan, who died two weeks ago from a blood ailment. But not before the foundation got him to meet his idol, singer Martin Nievera, who dedicated a song that he had written for his own children. Nievera sang to Santillan at the Ayala Center on Dec.22 last year.

Racing against time

"Actually, we are always racing against time . . . It's our biggest enemy," said Eduardo Santos, the founder of the foundation. Santos set up the foundation here with a group of his friends, mostly from affluent families.

He said that he had witnessed a boy get his wish from a Make-A-Wish Foundation in Orlando, Florida, in 1989. Years later, he and his friends were able to secure a license to start the same foundation in the Philippines. Its current president is Phillip Pastoral.

Santos sadly recalled that there was a boy for instance who wanted a TV remote control. A day after the foundation gifted him with it, he passed away.

"What's difficult here is that you get emotionally attached to these children," Santos also said, as he noted that it was the aim of the foundation to create happy memories for terminally ill children.

"We don't discriminate, we take the children whether they're rich or poor," he added.

A committee in the foundation headed by director Karen Cipriano screens the children referred to them by the hospitals, Madamba explained.

Both Madamba and Santos said that the foundation hoped to branch out further and that it intended to get more local donors from corporate groups.

Santos said that aside from financial help from its international donors, the group would use its own money to buy the things that some of the children had wished for.

Favorite wishes

Mostly the children ask for play stations and other computer items, Santos said. Also, a survey conducted by the foundation showed that many wanted to visit a theme park, go on a special trip, go on a shopping spree and meet a celebrity.

Santos said the foundation was currently made up of 20 active members and 70 volunteers. He called for more volunteers.

"We believe that a lifetime is measured not by time but by memories. We are appealing to companies, organizations and individuals to join us in creating memories of hope, strength and love for thousands of children suffering from life-threatening illnesses," said Madamba.

The foundation members had come early to prepare for the President's visit with Jerome. But they were the last to leave him yesterday. After blowing kisses to the Wizard and while clutching the cash given him by the President, Jerome had fallen asleep, sleeping the sleep of a happy day.

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
San Lazaro Compound, Rizal Avenue, Sta. Cruz, Manila
Telephone No. 711-9502/03; 743-8301 to 23 local 1107, 1125

REQUEST FOR QUOTATIONS

1. The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards the cost of the Women' Health and Safe Motherhood Project, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loans to payments under the contracts for which this Request for Quotations is issued.
2. The Department of Health now requests sealed price quotations from eligible bidders for the supply and delivery of the following items/packages:

Package I	*Supply and Delivery of 9,400,000 Vitamin A Capsules, 200,000 IU as (Palmitate)*
Package II	*Supply and Delivery of 1,975,860 Methylergometrine Ampules Injections 200 mcg/mL Ampul (IM, IV) as maleate*
Package III	*Supply and Delivery of 267,250 Packages of Supplies for Safe Home Deliveries*

3. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information on the bid form and inspect the bidding documents at the address below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Procurement and Logistics Service
Department of Health
Building No. 26 San Lazaro Compound
Sta. Cruz, Manila
Philippines
Phone: (632) 336-3413 to 14
Telefax No.: (632) 743-9582 / 711-6831

SCHEDULE OF BID ACTIVITIES

	PACKAGE I	PACKAGE II	PACKAGE III
Issuance of Bid Documents	February 12-27, 2002	February 12-27, 2002	February 12-27, 2002
Pre-Bid Conference	February 19, 2002; 10:00 AM; Multimedia Conf. Rm.	February 19, 2002; 2:00 PM; Multimedia Conf. Rm.	February 20, 2002; 10:00 AM; Multimedia Conf. Rm.
Deadline of Submission of Bids	February 28, 2002; 10:00 AM; Multimedia Conf. Rm.	February 28, 2002; 2:00 PM; Multimedia Conf. Rm.	March 1, 2002; 10:00 AM; Multimedia Conf. Rm.
Opening of Bids	February 28, 2002; 10:00 AM; Multimedia Conf. Rm.	February 28, 2002; 2:00 PM; Multimedia Conf. Rm.	March 1, 2002; 10:00 AM; Multimedia Conf. Rm.

4. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by any interested eligible bidder at the said address upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (Php 5,000.00) or ONE HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS ($150.00)**, including mailing fee for foreign suppliers. The method of payment may be cash of bank draft.
5. International Shopping procedures will be conducted in accordance with ADB's procurement guidelines.
6. All quotations must be accompanied by a Bid Security of not less than two (2) percent of the total Price Quotation in the currency of the quotation or another freely convertible currency. Late quotations shall be rejected. Quotations will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the above address, on the stated date and time.
7. Prior to opening of quotations, a pre-bid conference will be held on the above stated date and time at the Multimedia Conference Room, Sta. Cruz, Manila.
8. The Department of Health will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by bidders in connection with the preparation or delivery of quotations.
9. In the comparison of Quotations, ADB's Domestic Preference Scheme will be applied in accordance with the provisions stipulated in the Instruction to Bidders.
10. The DOH reserves the right to accept or reject any quotation, and to annul the bidding process and reject all quotations at any time prior to Contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

(Sgd.) **ZENAIDA O. LUDOVICE, MD, MPH**
Assistant Secretary & Chairperson
Central Office Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Feb 9 2002)

Ireland claims Ali as its own

DUBLIN—Boxing legend Muhammad Ali has Irish roots, according to researchers here, who say his great-grandfather crossed the Atlantic to the United States during the 19th century. *AFP*

Sunday SPORTS

Editor **Al S. Mendoza** ◎ *Assistant Editor* **Edwin M. Villanueva**

Bill Shaw Classic on IBC-13

GOLF POWER, today, features the first of a two-part series on the highlights of the 13th Bill Shaw Memorial Golf Classic. Golf Power is aired every Sunday, 3 p.m. on IBC-13 and is hosted by golf professional Gerard Cantada.

SAMSUNG GOVERNORS CUP

FedEx makes PBA debut vs Coke

Game Today (Araneta Coliseum)
4 p.m.—Opening Ceremonies
5:30 p.m.—FedEx vs Coke

By June Navarro

UPBEAT Federal Express tries to brush aside its off-court problems when it collides with Coca-Cola today in the opening of the PBA's 28th season at the Araneta Coliseum.

A lavish opening ceremony and a one-hour show featuring the PBA's opening-day spectacle in recent years will precede the 5:30 p.m. encounter.

Dubbed as the Samsung Governors Cup, the conference highlights the inclusion of the two RP training squads to this year's Asian Games—RP Team Selecta and RP Team Hapee—against the 10 regular members of the league.

But the national squads momentarily take a back seat as the Express, which bought their PBA rights from Tanduay, tackle a cohesive but depleted Coca-Cola Tigers' side.

On their maiden season in the league, the Express banners a motley crew of young and old talented cagers. Rookies Yancy De Ocampo and Renren Ritualo bring their stuff into the professional league.

They will be guided, however, by veterans Jerry Codiñera, Dindo Pumaren, Zaldy Realubit, Gido Babilonia and Wynne Arboleda. FedEx also tapped some MBA stalwarts such as Biboy Simon, Danilo Capobres, Ryan Bernardo and *balik*-PBA Paul Alvarez.

The nucleus of the Tigers is remnant of the defunct Pop Cola Panthers, who were sold by the RFM Group of Companies to become San Miguel Corporation's fourth squad in the league.

BERNARDINO

SMC also holds the stocks of San Miguel Beer, Barangay Ginebra and Purefoods in the PBA.

The Tigers, however, will play a leg shorter than the Express as they lent five of their players to the national pool. Slotman Edward Juinio, playmaker Johnny Abarrientos, Jeffrey Cariaso, Rudy Hatfield and rookie Rafi Reavis will don the national colors.

Left to man the Tigers' fort were Estong Ballesteros, Ato Morano, Jumbo Bolado, William Antonio and rookies Jojo Manalo, Leo Avenido, Gilbert Lao and Jason Misolas. Veterans Freddie Abuda and Lowell Briones are also ready to lend a hand.

Another spectacle to watch are the presence of body-bumping imports Fred Williams and Roselle Ellis who will enforce the Tigers. FedEx tries to match them pound for pound with imports Rodrick Rhodes and Jermaine Walker around.

Off the court, FedEx remains in an impasse with PBA Commissioner Jun Bernardino, who granted Rene Hawkins' a three-year P4.5-million contract buyout instead of only a year.

Shark playmaker resting at home

By Dennis U. Eroa

SHARK playmaker Michael "Topex" Robinson is now resting comfortably at his home in Olongapo City's Mabayuan district.

Robinson, his wife and six-year-old Carlo survived a car accident along the North Expressway last Friday. Saved for minor bruises, the Robinsons luckily emerged unscathed after the accident.

"I thank the Almighty for this grace," Robinson, a devotee of the Black Nazarene, told the INQUIRER. "Also, I would like to thank those who gave their full support during our ordeal."

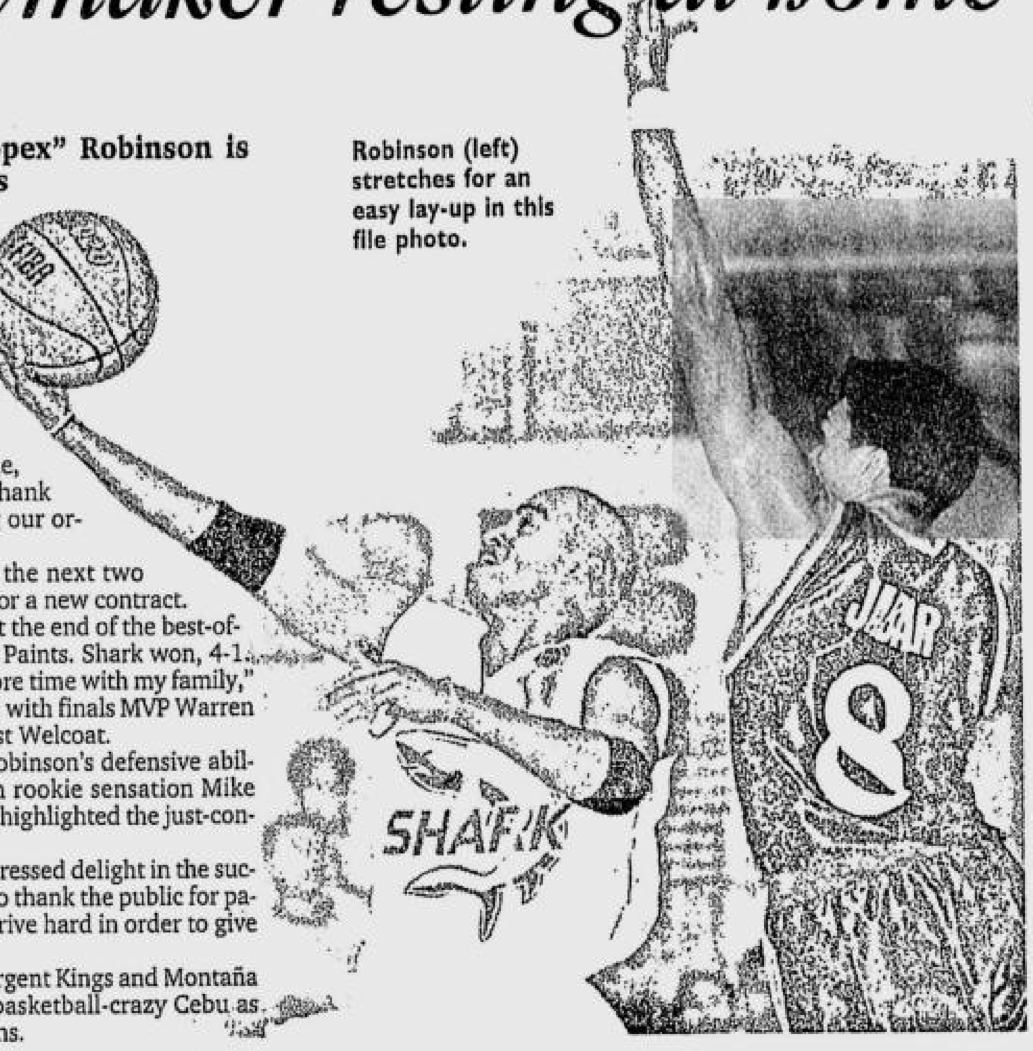
Robinson said he is taking it easy in the next two weeks before studying Shark's proposal for a new contract. Robinson's contract with Shark expired at the end of the best-of-seven championship series with Welcoat Paints. Shark won, 4-1.

"I just want to take a rest and spend more time with my family," the 5-foot-8 Robinson said. He alternated with finals MVP Warren Ybañez in setting up Shark's plays against Welcoat.

While lacking an explosive offense, Robinson's defensive ability cannot be questioned. His duel with rookie sensation Mike Cortez of ICTSI-La Salle in the backcourt highlighted the just-concluded conference.

Meanwhile, PBL chair Dioceldo Sy expressed delight in the success of the Challenge Cup. "I would like to thank the public for patronizing the league. We'll continue to strive hard in order to give the fans thrilling action."

Sy also said that two teams—Blu Detergent Kings and Montaña Jewels—would compete next week in basketball-crazy Cebu as part of the PBL's bid to reach Visayan fans.



Robinson (left) stretches for an easy lay-up in this file photo.

Iverson, Jordan no-shows; Webber takes O'Neal's spot as West starter

PHILADELPHIA—Former Los Angeles Lakers wannabe Chris Webber was looking forward to playing with Shaquille O'Neal in Sunday's NBA All-Star game. Instead, he'll be taking O'Neal's place in the starting lineup.

"To have Shaq as a teammate would be awesome," Webber said. "I've never in my life had a big dominant center that would rebound more than me or block shots more than me."

Potential for great partnerships and matchups was dwindling fast Friday as the All-Stars arrived in town, with roll call was a definite necessity for an event that's already lost some of its luster. The newest addition was Charlotte's Baron Davis, whose bags were packed for a trip to Los Angeles before he learned at midnight Thursday that he would take Vince Carter's place on the East roster.

"I was excited - how would you take it?" said Davis, who'll be making his All-Star game debut. "Man, that was like a dream come true. This is like a whole another level."

Carter who strained his left quadriceps Thursday in Toronto's game against San Antonio, and O'Neal is battling arthritis in his right big toe. That knocked out the top two vote-getters in the fan balloting and prompted the West's Kevin Garnett to devise his own strategy for avoiding the run of injuries.

"I plan on sitting in my room," Garnett said. "If I get hurt in my room, so be it."

WEBBER

West coach Don Nelson chose Webber to replace O'Neal as a starter, with Elton Brand added to the roster. East coach Byron Scott picked Jason Kidd, his point guard on the Nets, to start for Carter.

Meanwhile, Kobe Bryant showed up wearing No. 23 on a blue 76ers jersey, but it wasn't because he was trying to make up for no-shows Michael Jordan and Allen Iverson at the same time. He was wearing it as a tribute to his father, Joe Bryant.

Bryant's efforts aside, the absence of both Jordan and Iverson created a huge void. The game's biggest name and the hometown hero apparently both decided to pay the $ 10,000 fine instead of show up for media day.

"This is a guy who has about three parties in town, and every night he has something going on," said Iverson's teammate, Dikembe Mutombo. "He's enjoying himself. I don't know why he's not here. It doesn't matter whether he's sick today or what, but when it comes to game time everybody knows that AI will show up."

Mutombo also said Iverson will go through with a plan to wear No. 6 in the All-Star game as a tribute to Julius Erving. Iverson had said he wanted to check with Dr. J first.

"It's going to happen. He's going to wear it," Mutombo said. "I wish they could give me Charles Barkley or Moses (Malone's) jersey to wear."

Iverson will have a hard time topping last year, when he led the East to an incredible fourth-quarter comeback victory and was named MVP. Scott plans to give Iverson every chance to earn another trophy.

"Being his home, he'll probably get more time than anyone else," Scott said. "I want him to go out there and have some fun in his home town."

As for Jordan, no one expected him for media day - he's been paying the fine for years. He said last week it doesn't make sense to have to face reporters on Friday and then again at practice on Saturday, even if skipping Friday perpetuates the image that he lives and plays by his own rules.

Jordan will play in Sunday's game, of course, but he has dismissed any thought of a Jordanesque performance or any kind of a showdown with someone like Bryant. *AP*

Seaba Champion's tilt gets going March 10-14

By Roy Luarca

THE SOUTHEAST Asia Basketball Association Champion's Cup slated March 10-14 will be held in Cebu City instead of Manila.

Aside from the Philippines, which will be represented by Spring Cooking Oil, other countries competing in one of the region's premiere tournaments are Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore and Indonesia.

Basketball Association of the Philippines secretary general Graham Lim said he had instructed Region VII director lawyer George Bragat and vice president Dodon Aquino to coordinate with Cebu City Mayor Tony Osmena and Cebu Sports Commission head Jonathan Guardo regarding the holding of the Seaba Champion's Cup.

The Philippines, represented by the Bobby Parks-reinforced National Basketball League selection, won the event last year in Johor Baru, Malaysia. Parks, a many time best import in the PBA, also banners Spring Cooking Oil, which is owned by national shooters Tom Ong and Tac Padilla.

Lim said the Seaba Champion's Cup event would serve as qualifier for the Asian Basketball Confederation Champion's Cup set in Kuala Lumpur from April 28 to May 5.

Lim added that the BAP would also seek the help of Tourism Secretary Dick Gordon because the event would help promote tourism in Cebu City.

Solar telecasts NBA All-Star Weekend

SOLAR Entertainment will telecast a full six hours of the NBA's annual basketball spectacle for fans, the NBA All-Star Weekend, starting tonight (Saturday, Feb. 10) at 7 p.m. and tomorrow at 9:45 p.m. on NBN-4.

NBA All-Star Weekend festivities kick off tonight with the NBA Rookie Challenge. Rookies led by 2001 College Player of the Year Shane Battier and sensational Pau Gasol of Spain face sophomore stars such as 2001 Rookie of the Year Mike Miller and New Jersey's Kenyon Martin.

Milwaukee's Ray Allen will defend his crown in the Three-point Shootout against the likes of Sacramento's Peja Stojakovic and San Antonio's Steve Smith, while high-flying Desmond Mason of Seattle tries to make it two in a row in the Slam Dunk Contest against an elite field that includes Houston's franchise player, Steve Francis, one of 10 fist-timers in this year's All-Star Game.

On Monday, the West will try to avenge last year's heart-wrenching 110-111 defeat to the East in one of the most riveting All-Star Games ever. Despite leading by 19 points in the fourth quarter, the heavily favored West floundered after a searing rally by the east. All-Star Game MVP Allen Iverson scored 15 of his 25 points for the East in the final nine minutes while Stephon Marbury made two three-pointers in the final 53 seconds to win the game.

With top vote-getters Vince Carter and Shaquille O'Neal sitting out Monday's game due to injuries, much of the attention will likely fall on the match-up pitting the East's Michael Jordan against the West's Kobe Bryant.

RP Open qualifying slated

THE QUALIFYING round for 10 shots to the 87th Philippine Open will be held on Feb. 18-19 at Villamor Golf Club.

The RP Open will be held March 7-10 at Wack Wack East.

The 36-hole event is open to local and foreign professionals and amateurs with a handicap-index of 4 or below.

The pros are required to submit copies of their licenses and amateurs their handicap certifications to the organizing committee after paying the registration fee of P2,500.

We are grateful that despite limited time, Villamor has graciously allowed us to use their facilities for the RP Open qualifying," said Comm. Danny Pizarro, Open tournament committee chair.

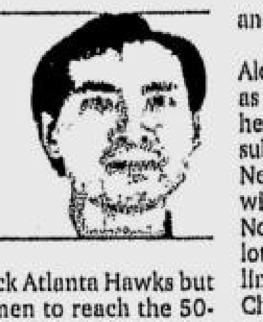
Aspirants can register at Villamor, at the National Golf Association of the Philippines offices or Wack Wack not later than at the close of office hours on Feb. 16.

Practice rounds have to be cleared through Villamor. Competitors cannot bring in their own caddies.

Five teams, five pairs

NBA NOTES

Henry Liao



FIVE teams have a pair of representatives in the 2002 NBA All-Star Game to be held at Philadelphia's First Union Center on Monday (Manila time).

They are the NBA-leading Sacramento Kings (starter Chris Webber and reserve Peja Stojakovic), Dallas Mavericks (reserves Dirk Nowitzki and Steve Nash), Minnesota Timberwolves (starter Kevin Garnett and reserve Wally Szczerbiak), Boston Celtics (starter Antoine Walker and reserve Paul Pierce) and Philadelphia 76ers (starters Allen Iverson and Dikembe Mutombo).

Surprisingly, the New Jersey Nets, the team with the best record in the entire Eastern Conference, only has one All-Star in early NBA MVP favorite Jason Kidd. Kenyon Martin and Keith Van Horn, the Nets' bookend forwards who rank 1-2 in club scoring, were bypassed in favor of Sydney Olympian Shareef Abdur-Rahim, who toils with the sad-sack Atlanta Hawks but is one of only five men to reach the 50-point plateau thus far this campaign (the others being Washington's Michael Jordan, San Antonio's Tim Duncan, the LA Lakers' Kobe Bryant and Iverson, all of whom are also appearing in the 51st mid-winter classic).

The Detroit Pistons, who are bannered by two-guard Jerry Stackhouse, are the only above .500 team (26-21) in the East without an All-Star rep. In contrast, conference losers Charlotte (23-25), Miami (18-29) and Atlanta (16-33) have one each.

The Hawks' Abdul-Rahim and the Heat's Alonzo Mourning got into the All-Star party as reserves in balloting by the conference head coaches. Kidd also was chosen as a substitute but East coach Byron Scott, Kidd's Nets mentor, will now start following the withdrawal of 'Toronto" Vince Carter, the No. 1 vote-collector in the All-Star fan balloting to select the East and West starting lineups, from the game due to an injury. Charlotte guard Baron Davis was designated by NBA commissioner David Stern to take over Carter's East roster berth although Stackhouse would have been a more deserving selection.

Kidd's insertion in the East starting lineup will allow Scott to put Washington's Michael Jordan (who was voted by the fans to start at guard) alongside Walker at forward, MJ's position with the Wizards.

Another All-Star withdrawal is Lakers center Shaquille O'Neal, who has toe problems in both feet and will miss the game for the second consecutive year due to an injury. Stern named LA Clippers forward Elton Brand to replace O'Neal, the No. 2 All-Star vote-getter, on the West roster. West coach Don Nelson of Dallas later picked Webber, an original reserve, to start for his team. That gives Nelson the option to switch any of his three big men—Garnett and Duncan, the forward starters, and Webber—to the starting center spot.

As a result of the addition of Brand and Davis, there are now 10 players who will be appearing in their first All-Star Game. The others are Houston's Steve Francis (who made it as a starter even though he has missed double-digit games due to various injuries this season), Nowitzki, Nash, Szczerbiak and Stojakovic for the West and Pierce, Abdur-Rahim and Indiana's Jermaine O'Neal.

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

BASKETBALL: NBA Inside Stuff at 8:30 a.m. (r) on Star Sports, NBA All Star Saturday at 9 a.m. (r – 9 p.m.) on Star Sports and 7 p.m. on NBN 4
The Basketball Show at 2 p.m. on RPN 9
US NCAA—Temple vs George Washington at 4 p.m. on ESPN
NBA All Star Game tomorrow at 6 a.m. on ESPN
AMERICAN FOOTBALL: NFL Super Bowl XXXVI—New England vs St. Louis at 12 noon (r) on Studio 23
GOLF: Golfglobe 2002 at 5 p.m. on Star Sports
US Senior Skins Game at 6 p.m. on Star Sports
Magnificent 8—Royal Birkdale at 11 p.m. (r) on ESPN
POOL: Mosconi Cup 2001 at 6 p.m. on ESPN
SOCCER: English Premier Football League at 9 a.m., Arsenal vs Everton at midnight on ESPN
World Cup Mix at 12 noon (r) on ESPN

Leo, Rudy share coaching award

AUSTRIA

By Dennis Eroa

SHARK Energy Drink's Leo Austria and Rudy Mendoza of Ana Freezers were picked recently by the PBL Press Corps as coaches of the year.

Also sharing the award as MVPs in the just-concluded Welcoat-Shark best-of-seven championship series are Chester Tolomia, nicknamed "Elevator Man" and speedy Warren Ybañez, both of the Energy Drink Kings.

The bemoustached Austria was credited with steering Shark to its second straight Challenge Cup title, while Mendoza, a champion horseowner and father of Sta. Lucia playmaking ace Paolo, got the sportswriters' nod for transforming a rag-tag team to title contender.

Known for his cool under tremendous pressure, Austria, like Mendoza, was able to squeeze the best from his charges. Shark boasted of two titles in four straight finals appearance, while centerless Ana made it to the Final Four in the Chairman's Cup, before losing to Shark in the semis playoff in the recent Challenge Cup.

Though they emphasize the importance of defense, Mendoza and Austria possess different coaching styles. Ana is a fast-breaking, razzle-dazzle type of team, while Shark boasts of methodical, clinical plays.

"I am humbled by this award and my gratitude goes to the press corps," Mendoza said.

A star out of the NCAA, Tolomia's Shark main offensive option, while Ybañez kept the Energy Drink Kings offense running smoothly with his skills.

Former University of the East enforcer Gerald Ortega, was the unanimous choice as Mr. Stopper, while slotman Ervin Sotto emerged as Mr. Intangible. Both saw action for Shark.

High-leaping Cyrus Baguio of Kutitap Toothpaste won as Mr. Adrenalin, while Ana's Roland Pascual won the Most Improved Player of the Year award.

Other awardees are Ana's Ariel Capus (6th man), Blu Detergent's Marlon Legaspi (sportsmanship), and Mike Cortez (rookie of the year).

George Lambojon, a longtime PBL employee, will receive a plaque of appreciation, same with the Welcoat organization.

The awarding ceremonies supported by Johnny Air Cargo will be held on Feb. 15 at the weekly Scoop sa Kamayan in West Avenue, Quezon City.

Tuñacao forces Thai foe to quit

CEBU'S Malcolm Tuñacao scored a technical knockout as he forced a groping but tough Pornchai Sishpraphrom, a deaf-mute from Thailand, to quit in the sixth round of a 10-round main event at the Waterfrtont Hotel here Friday night.

Tuñacao, a former World Boxing Council flyweight champion who moved to the 115-pound division, landed big combinations but failed to nail down his elusive, unorthodox foe who finally quit on his feet at the end of the sixth.

Tall Eriberto Gejon stopped Rolando Baclayo in the second round to retain his RP mini-flyweight crown.

Local boy Wyndel Janiola from the Terry Carter stable won the RP junior flyweight championship after he was adjudged winner by majority decision over defending titlist Celso Danggod, whose handlers promptly protested the controversial result.

Rex Wakee Salud, who was honored by the Philippine Boxing Federation as outstanding promoter and manager, readily agreed to stage a rematch possibly in April.

RP bantamweight champion Jemrex Jaca, a Salud favorite, stopped veteran Andy Alagenio with a big right to the head in the third round of a junior featherweight bout and was hailed as the best fighter of the evening.

The 18-year-old Jaca did not stake his 118-pound title and was reported all set to move a division up.

Stylish Roselito Campana outpointed Jerry Pahayahay in the other supporting main bout.

The fights, put up by Rex Wakee Salud International Promotions, will be seen over NBN Channel 4 starting at 1 p.m. today. *Recah Trinidad*

Manila pitches for Tyson-Lewis

THE PHILIPPINES, battling an image problem of its own, is making a pitch for the Mike Tyson-Lennox Lewis fight, billing it as a repeat of the "Thrilla in Manila" between Mohammad Ali and Joe Frazier nearly three decades ago.

Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon said Saturday that the Philippines was "serious" about landing the match to promote the country, which has been saddled with a bad reputation over law-and-order problems, including kidnappings by the Muslim extremist Abu Sayyaf group in the south.

"We would like to focus on the other side of the Philippines," Gordon said. "It would also highlight the fact that the rest of the Philippines is peaceful."

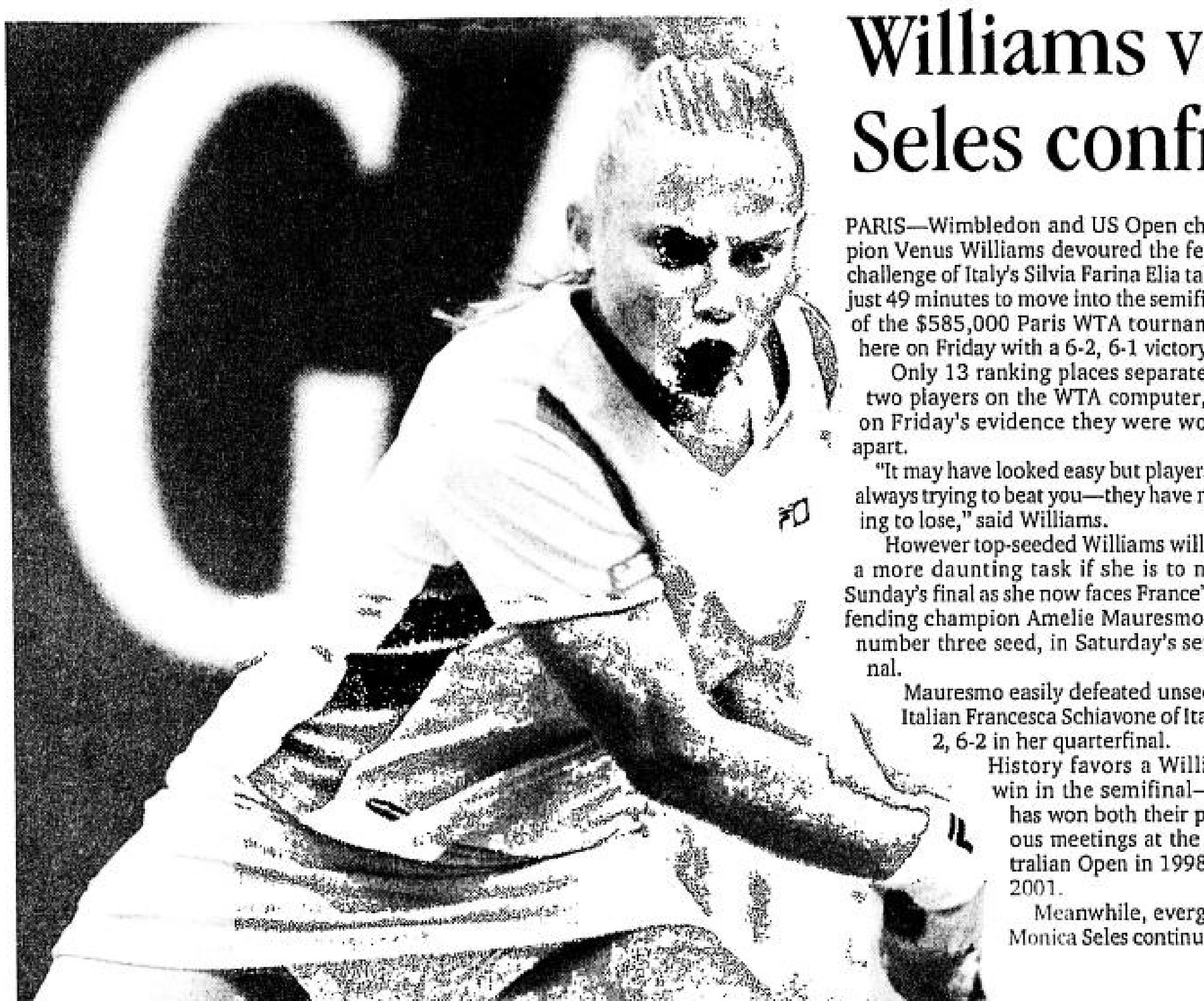
Tyson and Lewis were scheduled to fight for the heavyweight title in April in Las Vegas, but Nevada boxing officials voted last month to deny Tyson a license to fight in the state following a melee with Lewis at a news conference in New York.

Gordon said he has asked the Philippines' tourism coordinator in New York, Maricris Tabora, to talk with the fight managers.

"She is laying the groundwork for that," he said.

He also said he has received backing from the country's top businessmen, media executives, promotions agents and hotel owners.

"The first 'Thrilla in Manila' was done rather well. It was one of the best fights the world ever saw," Gordon said. **AP**


DOKIC returns a backhand against Russian Elena Dementieva during their quarterfinal match. Dokic won, 5-7, 6-1, 6-2. AFP

Williams vs Mauresmo; Seles confronts Dokic

PARIS—Wimbledon and US Open champion Venus Williams devoured the feeble challenge of Italy's Silvia Farina Elia taking just 49 minutes to move into the semifinals of the $585,000 Paris WTA tournament here on Friday with a 6-2, 6-1 victory.

Only 13 ranking places separate the two players on the WTA computer, but on Friday's evidence they were worlds apart.

"It may have looked easy but players are always trying to beat you—they have nothing to lose," said Williams.

However top-seeded Williams will face a more daunting task if she is to make Sunday's final as she now faces France's defending champion Amelie Mauresmo, the number three seed, in Saturday's semifinal.

Mauresmo easily defeated unseeded Italian Francesca Schiavone of Italy 6-2, 6-2 in her quarterfinal.

History favors a Williams win in the semifinal—she has won both their previous meetings at the Australian Open in 1998 and 2001.

Meanwhile, evergreen Monica Seles continued to defy the years as well as extending her dominance over Justine Henin when she brushed aside the challenge of the Belgian girl, 6-4, 6-3 to reach the semifinals.

It was the Seles' fourth career triumph over Henin, who was Wimbledon runner-up last year, and she now faces Yugoslavia's Jelena Dokic for a place in Sunday's final.

Seles will fancy her chances of reaching the final as she has a 4-0 career record over Dokic—including pipping her to the Olympic bronze medal in Sydney in 2000.

Fourth-seeded Dokic, winner of three titles in 2001 which helped propel her into the top 10 for the first time in her career, came from a set down to defeat Russia's Elena Dementieva 5-7, 6-1, 6-2.

Afterward, she said one of her ambitions is now to reach the top five by the end of the year.

"That's what I am looking at. I think I am capable of doing it but I am aware that there are a lot of players who get there and then go backwards.

"I want to get there and stay there. The good thing is that I don't have any points to defend for a while although I do at the end of the year so that's when it will be a real test for me," said Dokic. **AFP**

Pete, Andy give US 2-0 margin

OKLAHOMA CITY, Oklahoma— Americans Pete Sampras and Andy Roddick delivered a one-two punch against a pair of little-knowns, giving the US a 2-0 lead against Slovakia in the Davis Cup first-round play on Friday.

Neither Sampras, 30, nor the 19-year-old Roddick cruised through their matches, but both managed to pull out four-set wins as the two countries head toward Saturday's doubles match.

The US has a 151-3 winning record in Davis Cup ties when they have captured the first two singles matches.

Nevertheless, the US has failed to win the doubles point in their last five ties and will be relying on newcomers James Blake and Mardy Fish to bring home the point on Saturday against Jan Kroslak and Karol Beck.

The number-12 ranked Sampras, playing in the Davis Cup for the first time since April 2000 when the US narrowly beat the Czech Republic 3-2, had to wage a two hour, 25 minute battle before beating the number 268-ranked Beck 6-3, 6-7 (3/7), 6-1, 7-5. **AP**

Abalos motorcycle tourney on tap

MANDALUYONG becomes the newest hub of motorcycle sports activities when the first Mayor Benhur Abalos Cup Scooter and Motorcycle Meet finally comes off the wraps on Sunday, Feb. 10 at the Liberty Center in Mandaluyong.

The country's top scooter riders are expected to see action in the one-day, multi-class event presented by Shell Advance Motorcycle Oil and organized by the E.L. Racing Tech and YRS Motorcycle Modification "as part of Mayor Abalos' sports development program."

Trophies and cash prizes put up by Mayor Abalos are at stake in the event, which will also serve as a preview of this year's Shell Advance Super Scooter Series which begins at the Carmona Racing Circuit in Cavite next month.

"We are inviting all motorcycle and scooter enthusiasts from Mandaluyong and other nearby cities to come and watch the event," said Mayor Abalos, who also appointed Gregorio "Yoyong" Buncio as overall project director.

Mayor Abalos will personally declare the event open at 10 a.m., along with Buncio, Shell Brand Manager for Motorcycle Oil Serge Bernal and motocross champions Ernie Leongson, Jolet Jao and Jovie Saulog.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1994, Harriet Wilcox beat Dawn Olsen, 10-4, 1-9, 10-8, 9-6, to rule the Hong Kong Closed Championships at the Squash Center in Hong Kong. Also today in 1996, Aldrin Berdan defeated Orville Gayatin, 6-4, 6-2, to capture the boy's 18-under crown of the 1996 Milo Junior Tennis Cup at the San Jose Buenavista tennis courts in Antique.

FIREWORKS lights up the sky over the Rice-Eccles Olympic Stadium during the opening ceremony of the Salt Lake 2002 Olympic Winter Games. REUTERS

WINTER OLYMPICS ON

'Ground Zero' flag steals limelight

SALT LAKE CITY— Salt Lake City welcomed the world to the Winter Olympics with a dignified show of patriotism sparked by the appearance of the "Ground Zero" flag at Friday's opening ceremony.

Eight American athletes slowly carried the tattered flag, dug out from the rubble of the World Trade Center following the Sept. 11 attacks, into Rice-Eccles Stadium amid snow flurries at the start of the ceremony.

Their arrival, watched by U.S. President George Bush, was met by a respectful 90 seconds of silence from the 52,000 capacity crowd, many in tears, before they burst into cheers.

"Old Glory," a potent symbol of American patriotism and resilience, was also escorted by New York police officers and firemen before the Mormon Tabernacle Choir led the singing of the American national anthem.

Battering winds

The flag, though, was not raised above the stadium, as originally planned, because it was too fragile to withstand the high winds battering the city during the day.

A series of colorful skating tableaux were then enacted in a temporary rink at the center of the stadium before the athletes' parade, consisting of around 2,500 competitors from 77 countries.

Bush, in a departure from normal protocol, then left his seat to join American athletes in the south stand of the stadium before declaring open the 19th Winter Games.

Organizers had promised the ceremony would not become an "American flag-waving event" and would avoid Hollywood excess by stressing the importance of the Olympics as a healing force.

International Olympic Committee president Jacques Rogge, though, had words of sympathy. He told the crowd: "People of America, Utah and Salt Lake City, we are gathered once again in your great country.

'Horrific tragedy'

"Your nation is overcoming a horrific tragedy. A tragedy that has affected the whole world. We stand united with you in the promotion of our common ideals and hope for world peace."

He also called for a clean Games, adding: "A champion is someone who respects the rules; rejects doping; and competes in the spirit of fair play."

Bush, himself expressing his country's delicate mix of emotions, had said at a Salt Lake ceremony earlier on Friday: "The world has shed many tears, tears of sorrow over the past five months.

"Now it gives the people of the United States and the state of Utah great pride to host these Games which will provide lasting memories of laughter and triumph for people of every nation." *Reuters*

THE FLAG recovered from the ruins of the World Trade Center in New York is carried into the opening ceremony of the Salt Lake 2002 Winter Olympic Games. REUTERS

WOODS sends the turf flying as he hits his tee shot on the third hole. AP

BUICK INVITATIONAL

Tiger makes cut; Phil doesn't

SAN DIEGO—Tiger Woods needed a 1.8-meter (6-foot) birdie putt on the 18th hole to make the Buick Invitational cut, but two-time defending champion Phil Mickelson wasn't as lucky and will miss the weekend rounds of his hometown tournament.

Woods and Mickelson grew up playing Torrey Pines and dominated the last three Buicks. But the world's top two golfers found out Friday that the South Course wasn't nearly as familiar as it used to be. Local officials spent $3.3 million to make the course longer and tougher in an attempt to secure the 2008 U.S. Open.

Woods played the South Course in 5-over 77 on Friday after shooting a 6-under 66 on the North Course on Thursday, which had left him two strokes behind first-round leader Mathew Goggin. The cut came at 1-under 143, which is right where Woods was.

J.L. Lewis and Kent Jones had no trouble on the South on Friday, both shooting 5-under 67s to share the second-round lead at 9-under 135. Jones was bogey-free.

Jay Haas and Mark O'Meara, who like Lewis are in their 40s, were tied with Rory Sabbatini at 136. Haas, the 1978 Buick winner, shot 68; O'Meara, the '97 winner, a 69; and Sabbatini a 66, all on the North.

The weekend rounds will be played on the South Course, where architect Rees Jones changed every tee box, bunker and green during the renovation.

A grim-faced Woods refused comment after signing his card at 18, but his body language said it all, all round long.

Woods couldn't look at his duck-hook drive on the par-4, 440-meter (483-yard) No. 4, then slammed the head of his new Nike driver to the ground. He did end up saving par. But he took a double bogey on the par-3, 180-meter (198-yard) third, where he had to take a drop after hitting his tee shot into a hazard to the left of the green.

Woods was off his game right away, with two bogeys and a double bogey in the first five holes.

Woods pulled his cap over his eyes for a moment after missing a 3-meter (10-foot) birdie putt on the par-3, 160-meter (176-yard) eighth, then stared off into the distance. After hitting into the right rough on the par-5, 520-meter (571-yard) 19th, he angrily took a swipe at the air with his driver.

Watson ahead by 1

NAPLES, Florida—Tom Watson had a hole-in-one in a round of 8-under-par 64 to take a one-stroke lead over Dana Quigley in the Senior PGA Tour's ACE Group Classic.

Ben Crenshaw shot a 76 in his senior tour debut Friday, closing with a bogey on the par-5 No. 17 and quadruple bogey on the par-4 18th.

Watson birdied Nos. 10, 11 and 14 to reach 5 under, then aced the 148-meter (163-yard), par-3 16th with a 6-iron and followed with a 7.5-meter (25-foot) birdie putt on No. 17. **AP**

2 jockeys arrested for race fixing

HONG KONG—Hong Kong's anti-graft agency said it has arrested two jockeys and 17 others for alleged fixing of horse races and illegal bookmaking activities.

The jockeys and four other staff members at the Hong Kong Jockey Club - two work riders, a racing registry assistant and a clerk - allegedly took bribes from illegal bookmakers in return for supplying racing information and fixing races, the Independent Commission Against Corruption said Thursday.

Also arrested were a suspected illegal bookie, a saleswoman who was accused of helping to launder illegal proceeds and a punting consultant - a former journalist who allegedly told one of the jockeys that he was the subject of an ongoing investigation by the watchdog, an ICAC statement said. The other 10 are suspected of illegal booking activities, the statement said.

Anti-corruption officers searched two premises and also seized several computers and betting records during the races Wednesday evening.

The Hong Kong Jockey Club, which runs the city's popular horse races, said in a statement that it "is determined to ensure that racing in Hong Kong is of the highest level of integrity and to protect the interest of the Hong Kong people." Club officials declined further comment on the arrests. **AP**

'Baka lumungkot ang karera'

ONE WINNER

Edwin Villanueva

SO Wind Blown is not retiring yet.

No less than Hermie Esguerra confirmed this, ending speculations as to the status of the champion horse's campaign for 2002.

"*Tuloy pa rin ang takbo niya* this year. *Basta nasa mabuting kundisyon ikakarera pa rin natin siya*," said the boyish-looking, 47-year-old sportsman-businessman from Plaridel, Bulacan.

In jest, Hermie said that the main reason why he's not yet sending Wind Blown to stud is "*baka lumungkot ang karera.*"

For this season, Hermie is banking on the hot hands of Dhunoy Raquel Jr., who has formally took over from Pat Dilema since he guided Wind Blown to victory in the Regally Stakes last week.

"*Nakita namin na kapag si* Dhunoy *ang sakay eh maganda ang kilos ni* Wind Blown," explained Hermie on why he tapped Raquel's services again.

On Feb. 24, Wind Blown swings back to action when he defends his First Gentleman's Silver Cup title.

In that coming race (2,050 meters), one of Wind Blown's probable rivals is no less than Batangas Entry, Paolo Mendoza's speed horse who nearly upset him in the Classic Open last December.

Will Rudy Mendoza and Nick Atienza assign Dilema or Badjao Recosana to steer Batangas Entry? A lot of *kareristas* say that Batangas Entry runs better with Recosana as partner. Let's see.

In the meantime, tipsters are already marking Wind Blown as the "patok" to pocket the P1.1 million winner's prize.

* * *

Myther Buñag and Mon Arcenas are calling on all polo enthusiasts, and even non-enthusiasts, to witness this afternoon's 4th Tomas Aguirre Cup at the east polo field of the Manila Polo Club inside Forbes Park.

The event, set to start at 2 p.m., is organized by Teodoro Arcenas Jr., chair of Banco Filipino, and Albert "Bobby" Aguirre, BF vice chair.

RACING TIPS

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Race 2—1. Judicial System 2. Due Process 3. Pacific Dancer
Race 3—1. Vanicx 2. Friendly Lover 3. Marissa's Diane
Race 4—1. Michael's Way 2. Power Corrupts 3. Lucky El 4. Boogie Shoes
Race 5—1. Respect the Ace 2. Mr. Lucas 3. Gold Marlin
Race 6—1. Staunch Ally 2. Lyonnais
Race 7—1. Suterian Era 2. Aya's Star 3. Standout
Race 8—1. Ohayo Gozaimas 2. Golden Quest 3. Talk to Patsy
Race 9—1. The Warrior 2. Bumper to Bumper 3. Cherry Lane 4. Notable 5. Celebration
Race 10—1. Terrific 2. Accurized
Race 11—1. Flirting Hero 2. Hacker 3. Sunny Puddles 4. Royal Service
Race 12—1. Ocean Menary 2. Time Essential 3. Earth Angel
Race 13—1. Favorite Trick 2. My Indy/Silent Wind 3. Silver Rose 4. Dynamite Miss 5. All Smiles 6. Divine Magic

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2. Send one (1) Mentos® roll wrapper with foil (37g roll, any variant - MINT, FRUIT or GRAPE) with the following details:
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   16th Floor Octagon Centre,
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   OR
   Drop your entries in selected Aboitiz Express branches:
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   - SM Cebu City
   - Victoria Plaza Davao
   - SM Iloilo
   - Unit 1 RJD Bldg. Perez Blvd. Dagupan City

RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. Contest is open to residents of the Philippines.
2. All entries are qualified for the entire contest period including the Grand Draw no matter what week they are entered for. Each weekly winner can win only once in the weekly draws. However, their entries are still qualified for the Grand Draw to be held on May 10, 2002.
3. There will be 23 weekly draws. The weekly winner will be drawn every Friday at Perfetti Van Melle Phils., Inc. office and will be announced during the 2nd PBA game every Sunday.
4. Three-fourths (3/4) of the label must be intact to qualify as an entry.
5. The following are disqualified from entering this contest: all employees of Perfetti Van Melle Phils., Inc., Carat Philippines, Aboitiz One, Macondray Distribution Co. Inc. (including its agencies and sub-distributors) and their spouses and relatives up to the second degree of affinity and consanguinity.
6. Winners will be notified by phone or registered mail.
7. Taxes on prizes are shouldered by Perfetti Van Melle Phils., Inc.
8. Any prize shall be forfeited in favor of Perfetti Van Melle Phils., Inc. with the approval of DOH-BFAD, if it remains unclaimed for 60 days after the winner is notified.
9. Promo period: September 2001 to May 10, 2002. Deadline for submission of entries for the Grand Draw is on May 6, 2002.

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week 4	Christopher Van Lloyd	Caloocan City
week 5	Joselito Moreno	Legaspi City
week 6	Jocelyn Marcelino	Navotas
week 7	Mariano Feliciano	Balagtas, Bulacan
week 8	Marisa Lleje	Iloilo
week 9	Carolyn Verde	Madaluyong City
week 10	Michael Sta. Maria	Valenzuela City
week 11	Nena Abellana	Cebu City

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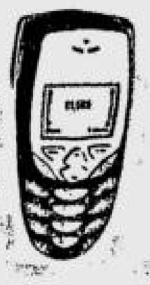
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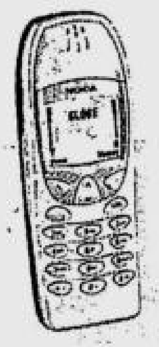
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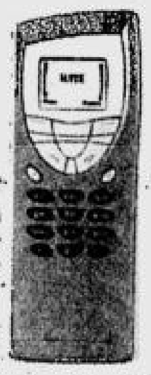
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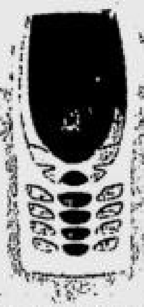
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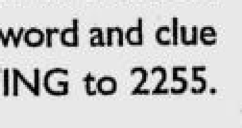
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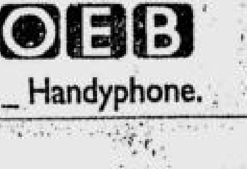
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER THE PHILIPPINE STAR myGlobe mobile e-services NO LIMITS

METRO

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

Incensed over fake scents

NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation agents raided the warehouse of Victorious Cosmetiques on Kabatuhan Street, Mapulang Lupa, Valenzuela City and seized P700,000 worth of fake Tommy Hilfiger perfumes. The local distributor complained to the NBI, who went on to secure a warrant from a Manila judge and file charges against the owner of the firm, one Jocelyn D. Alcasabas. *Philip Tubeza*

Cabbie turns car thief

EMMANUEL Castro, 37, was hired Feb. 6 to drive the taxi of Nelly David, 55, a retired teacher. But Castro, of Tomas Mapua Street, Manila, simply disappeared when he got behind the wheel of David's newly bought Tamaraw FX. David reported the matter to the police. Yesterday, lawmen found Castro still driving the FX taxi in Sta. Cruz and promptly arrested him. *Jerome Aning*

Binondo traders remain hopeful amid hard times

By Jerome Aning

WITH the country in the grip of an economic crisis, Chinese and Chinese-Filipino businessmen in Binondo, Manila remain hopeful that there will be a turnaround soon and businesses will soon get the needed boost as they opened celebrations to mark the Chinese New Year.

Manila Mayor Lito Atienza was on hand Friday night to open the festivities as he wished the Chinese-Filipino community in the capital a prosperous year.

Officers of the Chinatown Development Authority and the local Chinese-Filipino Chamber of Commerce joined Atienza and his son-in-law, Manila Councilor Miles Roces in lighting lanterns on top of the Chinese-Filipino Friendship Arch at the entrance of Quintin Paredes Street.

"With your continuous support to my administration, the entire city will prosper in this Year of the Water Horse," the mayor said.

The Chinese new lunar year falls on Feb. 12.

In a speech, the mayor praised the role of the ethnic Chinese in the making of Manila. Atienza said the Chinese are more of a friend to the Filipinos because, unlike the Spaniards and the Americans, the Chinese arrived in the country to trade and not to conquer.

Atienza said the celebrations will highlight the continuing redevelopment of Chinatown, which is part of his "Buhayin ang Maynila" urban renewal program.

Despite a downpour, Atienza's group continued to light lanterns on Quintin Paredes and Ongpin Streets.

At the newly renovated Plaza Ongpin, there was a program featuring a lion dance, a Chinese cultural show, and the presentation of candidates for this year's Miss Manila Chinatown beauty pageant.

People flocked to the plaza to catch a glimpse of actress Alessandra de Rossi, who was supposed to co-host the program. But the actress arrived when the program was nearly over, but she was still mobbed and cheered by her fans.

Ibay to gain from kickback, PCL head says

THE PRESIDENT of the Philippine Councilors League turned the tables on Manila fifth district councilor Richard Ibay, and accused the latter of overpricing the accommodation rates of delegates to the PCL national convention in Manila on Feb. 21 to 23.

PCL national president and Cotabato councilor Froilan Melendrez described Ibay's deal with Hafti Tours Inc. as the "most inimical, disadvantageous and crafted only for profit or gain at the expense of the PCL."

Ibay, head of the PCL accommodations committee, allegedly recommended Hafti Tours to provide accommodations for the councilors attending the convention, and signed the contract with the agency on Jan. 5.

Melendrez said the contract allows the agency to lodge the councilors in about 40 hotels in the city and provide for the delegates' food and transportation.

But the PCL chief said he later learned that Hafti's package rate of P2,300 per councilor was overpriced by P400. If 5,000 of the 18,000 PCL members decided to attend the convention, the travel agency will earn P2 million.

Melendrez also reported that when he spoke to the hotel representatives, he learned that each councilor will only be entitled to one lunch with one or two viands, and two breakfasts composed of bread or rice, butter, egg and marmalade.

"I cannot, in my conscience, allow the 'provinciano' councilors—some of whom will have to travel for three days and spend lots in travel fare—to eat bread and butter only for breakfast, just to give P2 million to an agency which Ibay loves so much," Melendrez said during a press conference Thursday in Ermita. "It's like robbing them of their hard-earned registration fees, which their city or municipal government will be paying."

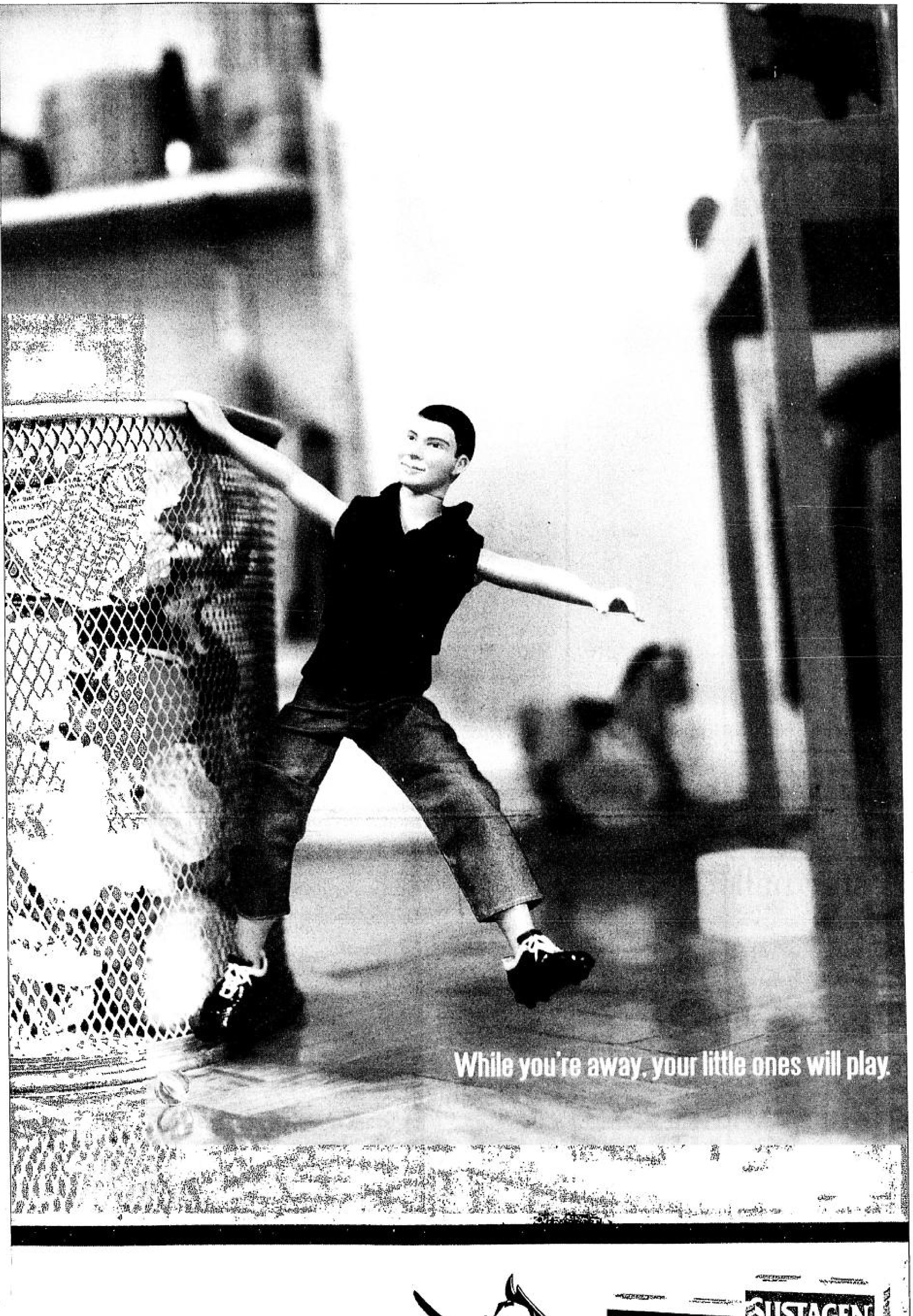
The PCL chief said he also learned that one of the contracted hotels, where 750 delegates will be billeted, has no business permit. Another hotel, which Hafti included in the list of 10 preferred hotels, does not have a Department of Tourism certification.

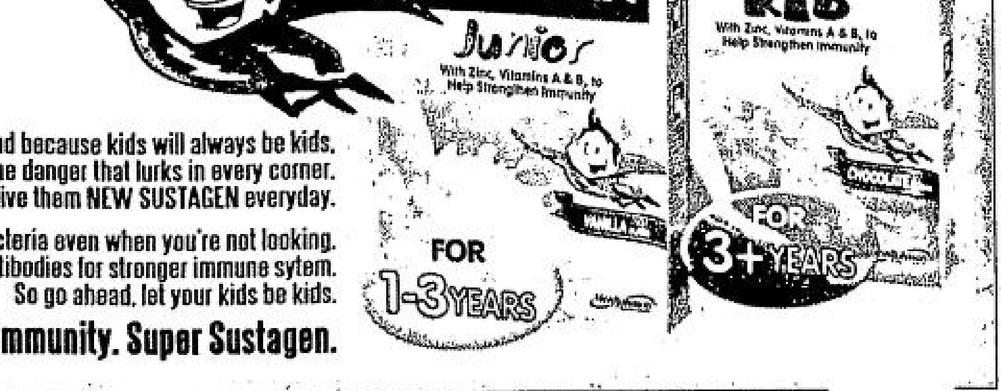
Melendrez said because of the irregularities, the PCL National Board met on Feb. 1 and voted to rescind the contract and deal with the hotels directly.

The controversy began when Ibay accused Melendrez, in a Jan. 30 privilege speech before the Manila City Council, of arranging for a "kickback" in the registration of convention delegates.

But Melendrez denied this and countered that Ibay raised the controversy because the Manila councilor will be made to explain why he forged a "disadvantageous" contract with Hafti Tours.

Jerome Aning

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KATE LEOPOLD

FREE RED WINE AND A DIGITAL PHOTO ON FEB 15 & 16

MMTA

METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA

(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DDS)	MARSHALL DICK
2 (SDDS)	THE LORD OF THE RING
3 (DTS)	FROM HELL
4 GOLD (DTS)	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	VANILLA SKY
6 GOLD (SDDS)	KATE & LEOPOLD
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	BLACK HAWK DOWN
8	ISANG PANAGINIP
9	REBULOSYONARYO
10	THE OTHERS

Pearl Plaza Cinemas

(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	KAULAYAW
2	
3 (DTS)	FROM HELL
4	
5	
6 (DTS)	BLACK HAWK DOWN

Golden Pearl THX

Maragana CINEMA

(Pasay) tel 831.6603

1	REBULOSYONARYO
2	KAULAYAW
3	HUSTLER

starmall Movies

(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	BLACK HAWK DOWN
2	MARSHALL DICK
3	HUSTLER
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	FROM HELL
5	KAULAYAW

METROPOLIS star

Tel. 850 4285

1	MARSHALL DICK
2	BLACK HAWK DOWN
3	ISANG PANAGINIP
4	KAULAYAW
5	VANILLA SKY
6	FROM HELL
7	RESERVE
8	RESERVE

PREMIERE CINEMA THX

(Makati City) Tel. 7512010 to 13

1	VANILLA SKY

Center Plaza Cinema

(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	ISANG PANAGINIP
2	DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC.

tel 930.9515

1	
2	EARTHQUAKE
3	KAULAYAW

Spring

(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	HUSTLER
A	KAULAYAW

Sunshine

(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	KAULAYAW
2	HUSTLER
3	ISANG PANAGINIP
4	BLACKHAWK DOWN

GOTESCO CINEMA

City (Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	VANILLA SKY
2	
3	
4	HUSTLER
5	KATE & LEOPOLD
6	KAULAYAW
7 (DTS)	FROM HELL
8 (SDDS)	BLACK HAWK DOWN
9 (DOLBY)	MARSHALL DICK

Caloocan tel 362.3508

2	KAULAYAW

Grand Central (Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	VANILLA SKY
2	ISANG PANAGINIP
3	REBULOSYONARYO
4 (SDDS)	BLACK HAWK DOWN
5	KAULAYAW
6 (DOLBY)	KATE & LEOPOLD
7 (DTS)	FROM HELL
8	HUSTLER
9	MARSHALL DICK

Commonwealth tel 951.0083

1 (DDS)	FROM HELL
2	ISANG PANAGINIP
3	KAULAYAW
4	HUSTLER
5 (SDDS)	BLACK HAWK DOWN
6	REBULOSYONARYO
7 (DOLBY)	VANILLA SKY
8	KATE & LEOPOLD

Ortigas tel 656.6795

1	REBULOSYONARYO
2	KAULAYAW
3 (DTS)	FROM HELL
4	HUSTLER
5 (SDDS)	VANILLA SKY

Universal

(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	REBULOSYONARYO

Sampaguita

(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	REBULOSYONARYO

Dilson

(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	
Lords	KAULAYAW
Jennet	HUSTLER

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong

tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	FROM HELL
2	ISANG PANAGINIP
3	KAULAYAW

Prima

(Pasig) tel 641.1215

3	KAULAYAW

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto SUPER CINERAMA

tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	BLACK HAWK DOWN
2	VANILLA SKY
3	FROM HELL
4	ISANG PANAGINIP
5	REBULOSYONARYO

New Divisoria Mall DIVISORIA CINEMA

tel 244.4619

1	REBULOSYONARYO
2	KAULAYAW
3	HUSTLER
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6	FROM HELL

Baclaran LRT LRT CINEMA

tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY)	
2	

Berma

tel 879.2029

1	KAULAYAW
2	HUSTLER

CitiMall

(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	HUSTLER
2	FROM HELL

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall (Sta. Rosa Laguna) tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	ISANG PANAGINIP
2	BLACK HAWK DOWN
3 (DTS)	VANILLA SKY

Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	ISANG PANAGINIP
2 (DTS)	KATE & LEOPOLD
3 (DOLBY)	VANILLA SKY
4	FROM HELL

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall (Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	ISANG PANAGINIP
2 (DOLBY)	VANILLA SKY
3 (DTS)	FROM HELL
4	KATE & LEOPOLD

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix (Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	ISANG PANAGINIP
2	BURLESK KING
3	SOON TO OPEN
4	SOON TO OPEN

Cinema 2000 METRO TOWN TEL. (045) 9821729 (Tarlac)

1	FINAL ANSWER
2	AMERICAN ADOBO
3 (DOLBY)	LORD OF THE RING
4 (DTS)	OCEAN'S ELEVEN

Lianas Cinema

(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	HUSTLER
2	ISANG PANAGINIP
3	KAULAYAW
4 (DTS)	MARSHALL DICK

Lianas MovieCity (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	BLACK HAWK DOWN
2	VANILLA SKY
3 (DTS)	FROM HELL
4	ISANG PANAGINIP
5	KATE & LEOPOLD

Olivarez Tri-Cinema

(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	ISANG PANAGINIP
2	VANILLA SKY
3	KATE & LEOPOLD

Olivarez Los Baños tel (049) 249-2558

1	FROM HELL
2	VANILLA SKY
3	KATE & LEOPOLD

Olivarez Tagaytay tel (046) 413.0311

1	BLACK HAWK DOWN
2	ISANG PANAGINIP
3	AMERICAN ADOBO

Morales Cinema

(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	FROM HELL
2	WOLF GIRL
3	

Cabuyao

(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	RESERVE
2 (DTS)	BLACK HAWK DOWN

Emperor

(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	BLACK HAWK DOWN
2	ISANG PANAGINIP
3	AMERICAN ADOBO

Fiesta World Mall

(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	AMERICAN ADOBO
2	BLACK HAWK DOWN
3	ISANG PANAGINIP
4	FINAL ANSWER

Jade Cinema

(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	BLACK HAWK DOWN
2	ISANG PANAGINIP
3	VANILLA SKY
4 (DTS EX)	SUMMER CATCH

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THX
CMG INTERNATIONAL

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GALLERIA

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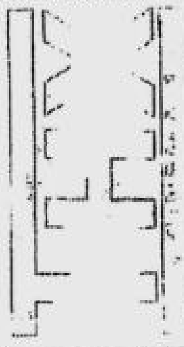
1	VANILLA SKY
2	VANILLA SKY
3	KATE AND LEOPOLD
4	MARSHALL DICK
5	BLACK HAWAK DOWN
6	FROM HELL
7	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
8	ISANG PANAGINIP
9	REBULOSYONARYO
10	THE OTHERS



ERMITA

536-7809 TO 12

1	VANILLA SKY
2	MARSHALL DICK
3	THE OTHERS
4	KATE AND LEOPOLD
5	ISANG PANAGINIP
6	BLACK HAWK DOWN
7	FROM HELL

METRO EAST

#682-8103, #682-8193
#682-8199, 682-8280

1	MARSHALL DICK
2	VANILLA SKY
3	THE OTHERS
4	KATE & LEOPOLD
5	BLACK HAWK DOWN
6	ISANG PANAGINIP
7	FROM HELL
8	OCEAN'S ELEVEN

NOVALICHES

935-3229 to 31

1	BLACK HAWK DOWN
2	VANILLA SKY
3	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
4	KATE AND LEOPOLD
5	ISANG PANAGINIP
6	FROM HELL
7	MARSHALL DICK
8	LORD OF THE RINGS

IMUS

(046) 471-0100

1	BLACK HAWK DOWN
2	MARSHALL DICK
3	REBULOSYONARYO
4	VANILLA SKY
5	FROM HELL
6	KATE & LEOPOLD

BACOLOD

(034) 441-0453 / 0459

1	LORD OF THE RINGS
2	LORD OF THE RINGS
3	ISANG PANAGINIP
4	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
5	BLACK HAWK DOWN
6	BUKO PANDAN

ILOILO

(033) 330- 8077 / 8078

1	AMERICAN ADOBO
2	BLACK HAWK DOWN
3	ZOOLANDER
4	LORD OF THE RINGS
5	FINAL ANSWER
6	GIRL FEVER

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101

ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	FINAL ANSWER
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	ISANG PANAGINIP
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	VANILLA SKY
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	BLACK HAWK DOWN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	FROM HELL
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	KATE AND LEOPOLD
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	MARSHALL DICK
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	KAULAYAW
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	HUSTLER
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	2 PISNGI NG PAG IBIG / OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
ODEON	FROM HELL
ODEON-2	BLACK HAWK DOWN
ROBEN	KAULAYAW
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	THE SCORE / WOLF GIRL
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	KAULAYAW
REMAR	KAULAYAW
REMAR-2	BLACK HAWK DOWN
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	HUSTLER
B	KAULAYAW
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	FROM HELL
CINEMA-2	VANILLA SKY
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	REBULOSYONARYO
CINEMA-2	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
CINEMA-3	KAULAYAW
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
CINEMA-6	FINAL ANSWER
CINEMA-7	HUSTLER
CINEMA-8	HEARTS IN ATLANTIS
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	VANILLA SKY
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	FROM HELL
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	BLACK HAWKDOWN
CINEMA-12	KATE & LEOPOLD
CINEMA-14	MARSHALL DICK
CINEMA-15	ISANG PANAGINIP
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
CINEMA-2	KATE & LEOPOLD
CINEMA-3	BLACK HAWK DOWN
CINEMA-4	MARSHALL DICK
CINEMA-5	FROM HELL
CINEMA-6	VANILLA SKY
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

SM CINEMA

SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 633-9999

NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOOR

4173868

1	KAULAYAW
2	FROM HELL
3	VANILLA SKY
4	SHALLOW HAL
5	BLACK HAWK DOWN
6	ISANG PANAGINIP
7	MARSHALL DICK
8	KATE & LEOPOLD

SM CENTERPOINT

7149522-7161416

1	ISANG PANAGINIP
2	GLASS HOUSE
3	VANILLA SKY
4	MARSHALL DICK
5	BLACK HAWK DOWN
6	SHALLOW HAL
7	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
8	FROM HELL
9	KATE & LEOPOLD
10	KAULAYAW

SM CITY FAIRVIEW

9350749

1	REBULOSYONARYO
2	FINAL ANSWER
3	THE OTHERS
4	BLACK HAWK DOWN
5	MARSHALL DICK
6	ISANG PANAGINIP
7	VANILLA SKY
8	KATE & LEOPOLD
9	FROM HELL
10	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
11	SHALLOW HAL
12	KAULAYAW

SM CITY MANILA

5239240

1	KATE & LEOPOLD
2	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
3	THE OTHERS
4	BLACK HAWK DOWN
5	FROM HELL
6	VANILLA SKY
7	FINAL ANSWER
8	VANILLA SKY
9	ISANG PANAGINIP
10	LORD OF THE RINGS
11	MARSHALL DICK
12	SHALLOW HAL

SM MEGAMALL

6331001 • 6329401

1	VANILLA SKY
2	FROM HELL
3	BLACK HAWKDOWN
4	VANILLA SKY
5	MARSHALL DICK
6	KATE & LEOPOLD
7	FINAL ANSWER
8	SHALLOW HAL
9	ISANG PANAGINIP
10	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
11	KAULAYAW
12	LORD OF THE RINGS

SM CITY NORTH EDSA

9295452

1	FROM HELL
2	MARSHALL DICK
3	KAULAYAW
4	ISANG PANAGINIP
5	KATE & LEOPOLD
6	VANILLA SKY
7	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
8	BLACK HAWK DOWN
9	SHALLOW HAL
10	REBULOSYONARYO
11	FINAL ANSWER
12	THE OTHERS

SM SOUTHMALL

8008008 • 8056782

1	MARSHALL DICK
2	FROM HELL
3	VANILLA SKY
4	KATE & LEOPOLD
5	KAULAYAW
6	FINAL ANSWER
7	ISANG PANAGINIP
8	BLACK HAWK DOWN
9	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
10	SHALLOW HAL

SM CITY CEBU

2313878

1	KATE & LEOPOLD
2	BLACK HAWK DOWN
3	VANILLA SKY
4	CORKY ROMANO
5	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
6	FINAL ANSWER
7	ISANG PANAGINIP
8	LORD OF THE RINGS

SM CITY ILOILO

3209422

1	ISANG PANAGINIP
2	CLOSED
3	BLACK HAWK DOWN
4	FINAL ANSWER
5	AMERICAN ADOBO
6	LORD OF THE RINGS
7	CLOSED
8	ZOOLANDER

SM CITY PAMPANGA

7128015

1	BLACK HAWK DOWN
2	THE OTHERS
3	VANILLA SKY
4	FINAL ANSWER
5	HEARTS IN ATLANTIS
6	ISANG PANAGINIP

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT

8294975

1	SHALLOW HAL
2	BLACK HAWK DOWN
3	VANILLA SKY
4	ISANG PANAGINIP

SM CINEMA GUADALUPE

8820984

1	KAULAYAW
2	VANILLA SKY
3	REBULOSYONARYO

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN

2514302

1	VANILLA SKY
2	ISANG PANAGINIP
3	BLACK HAWK DOWN
4	REBULOSYONARYO

SM CITY DAVAO

2976998

1	BLACK HAWK DOWN
2	ZOOLANDER
3	HEARTS IN ATLANTIS
4	LORD OF THE RINGS
5	FINAL ANSWER
6	KATE & LEOPOLD

SM BICUTAN

1
2
3
4

SOON TO OPEN! 4 NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART VISION & SOUND

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

1
2
3
4

SOON TO OPEN! 4 NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART VISION & SOUND

THE PODIUM

18 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center Mandaluyong City

1
2

SOON TO OPEN! 2 NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART VISION & SOUND

6389781-85

Movies are subject to change without prior notice

Center for Pop opens Cavite branch

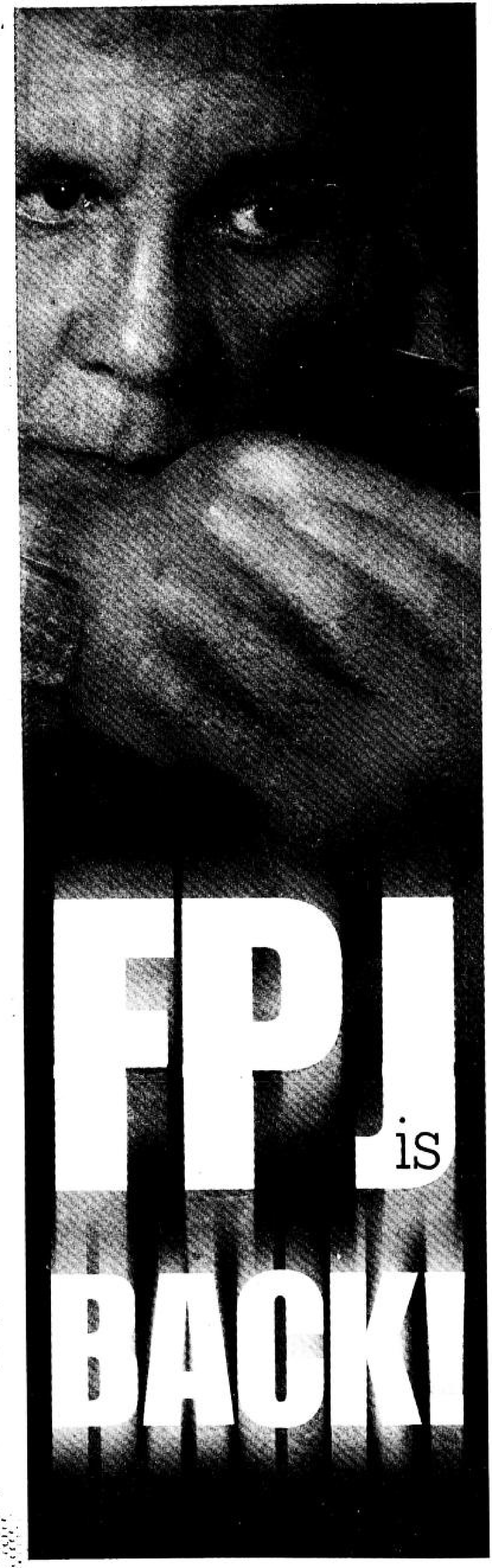
THE CENTER for Pop Music Philippines, the country's first and largest training school for pop singing, invades Cavite as it opens its 10th branch today at Km. 27 Aguinaldo Highway, Barangay Salitran II, Dasmariñas, Cavite.

Among the products of the Center for Pop are Roselle Nava, Dessa, Geneva Cruz, Donita Rose, Kyla and many others.

Dasmariñas Mayor Elpidio F. Bargaza Jr. is the guest of honor in the opening ceremonies.

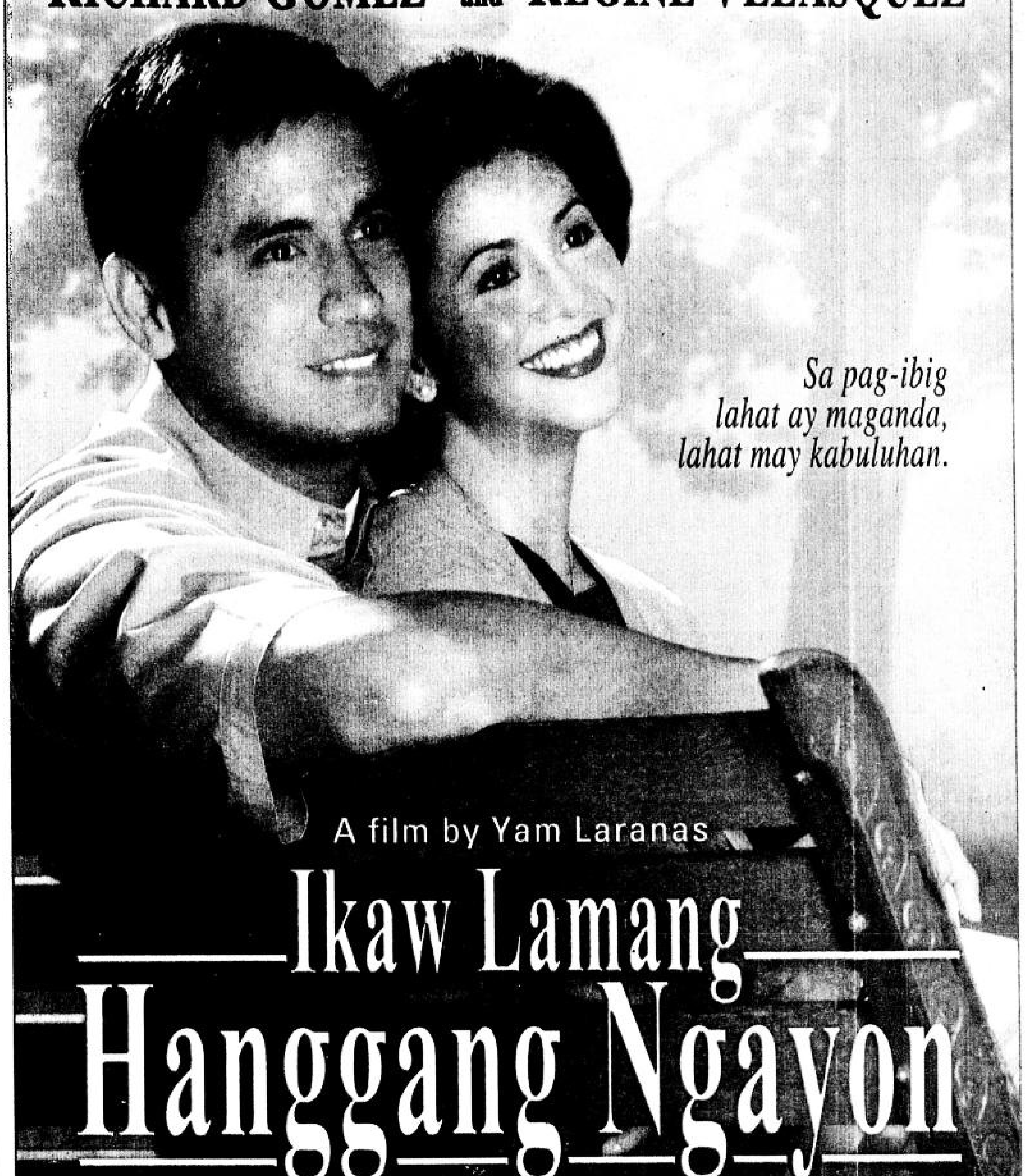
Butch Albarracin, founder and president of the Center for Pop Music Philippines, is hopeful that the Dasmariñas branch will be able to discover fresh singing talents for the country's recording industry.

The opening ceremonies will be highlighted with a blessing, cocktails and musical numbers.



THE KING & QUEEN OF HEARTS
TOGETHER AT LAST
IN THE MOST ROMANTIC DATE-MOVIE
THIS VALENTINE'S!

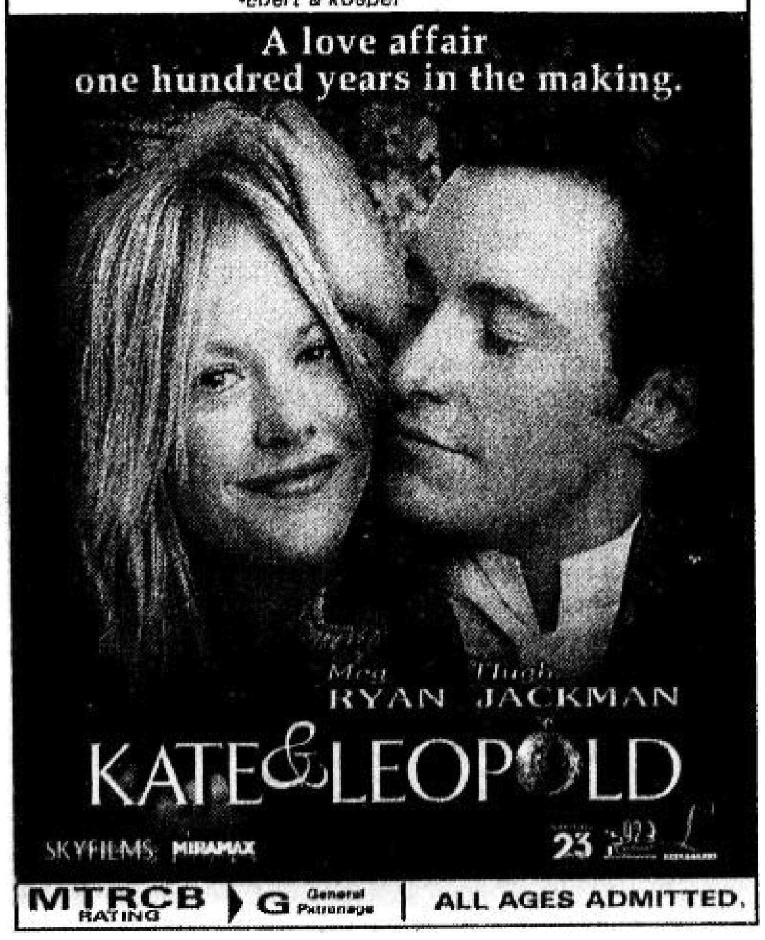
RICHARD GOMEZ and REGINE VELASQUEZ



Sa pag-ibig
lahat ay maganda,
lahat may kabuluhan.

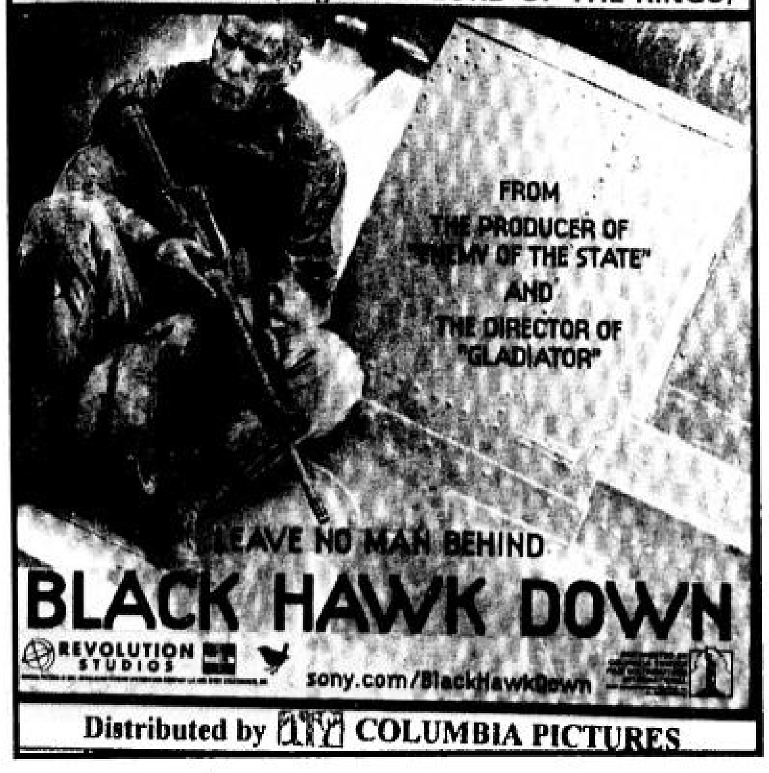
A film by Yam Laranas
Ikaw Lamang Hanggang Ngayon
Starring CANDY PANGILINAN TANYA GARCIA
Featuring the theme song "HANGGANG NGAYON" Music & Lyrics by Ogie Alcasid & Regine Velasquez, from the album "A BETTER MAN".
directed by
YAM LARANAS
Rexona · Nestlé · VIVA FILMS A VIVA ENTERTAINMENT COMPANY
NGAYONG FEB. 13!

5TH "Two Thumbs Up" HIT DAY!
-Ebert & Roeper



MTRCB RATING G General Patronage | ALL AGES ADMITTED.

SECOND WEEK !
MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
All-Star Cast! Josh Hartnett (PEARL HARBOR), Ewan McGregor (PHANTOM MENACE / MOULIN ROUGE) & Orlando Bloom (Legolas in LORD OF THE RINGS)



Distributed by COLUMBIA PICTURES

Special Valentine Presentation
WARMING HEARTS FEB. 13
MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

"'RIDING IN CARS WITH BOYS' HAS GOT THE GOODS. DIRECTED SUPERBLY BY PENNY MARSHALL. THE FILM ACCELERATES DREW BARRYMORE'S CAREER, AND PUTS STEVE ZAHN'S INTO OVERDRIVE." GENE SHALIT, THE TODAY SHOW

"WONDERFULLY ACTED, ESPECIALLY BY DREW BARRYMORE." RICHARD SCHICKEL, TIME MAGAZINE

"MS. BARRYMORE'S TOUGH-BUT-TENDER PERFORMANCE IS THE CLEAREST PROOF YET THAT SHE HAS WHAT IT TAKES TO STRETCH HER TALENTS INTO LARGE, COMPLEX PORTRAYALS." - STEPHEN HOLDEN, THE NEW YORK TIMES

DREW BARRYMORE
RIDING IN CARS WITH BOYS
ridingincars.com
Distributed by COLUMBIA PICTURES

'A HEART'S JOURNEY'

Familiar Joe Mari Chan, with a dash of daring

By Emmie G. Velarde

REVIEW

THERE is enough of the old familiar Jose Mari Chan in "A Heart's Journey," his latest song collection on CD, to assure listeners that it's really him and not, say, Cliff Richard. Count on a small serving of old familiar rhymes, old familiar images, and too neatly tied up melodies.

The good news is that, the collection is happily infused with exceptional work by artists not widely known for JMC's type of music. This meeting of diverse styles has proven vastly favorable.

Sweet, sweeping

Let's get the thorns out of the way. Carrier single—meaning, the one that's initially getting the most airplay—is "Easier Said Than Done," though I don't see why. There are 14 tracks here, and it is one of only five that can't keep me on my seat, even if Mr. Chan were beside me and staring me down.

The nine other songs can be labeled anywhere from cozy to wonderful, with a dash of fun and daring.

No other singer, in my opinion, should ever attempt to do a cover of the title song. Written, composed, and performed by Durable Joe, "A Heart's Journey" seems to tell his personal story, in simple words that cannot help but be melancholic.

"When love is done, you've lost and you've gained," the man sings. And I'm convinced that's exactly how it happened to him. He has equipped the lyrics with sweet, sweeping music that makes the song perfect for a post-party dance for two.

Beyond romantic

Even if "Journey" is obviously my top pick, the one likely to infect most listeners with "last-song syndrome" is "I Have Found My World in You." Joe penned this together with Denise Rich and Peter Zizzo, songwriters for the mighty Celine Dion.

There are two versions of the song, each with a different set of lyrics, with Joe's daughter Liza interpreting the first one. The girl has the voice, but not the look-at-my-naked-heart abandon that the words and melodic structure require.

On the other hand, without losing the legendary cool in his voice, Dad succeeds in elevating the second version to a level beyond the merely romantic. This, at least to me, is more effective than the out-and-out religious material, "Empty Space."

"Cute" best describes "Please Don't Just Say Maybe." Noel Mendez on guitar lends it a touch of James Taylor, albeit an old James Taylor.

Great work

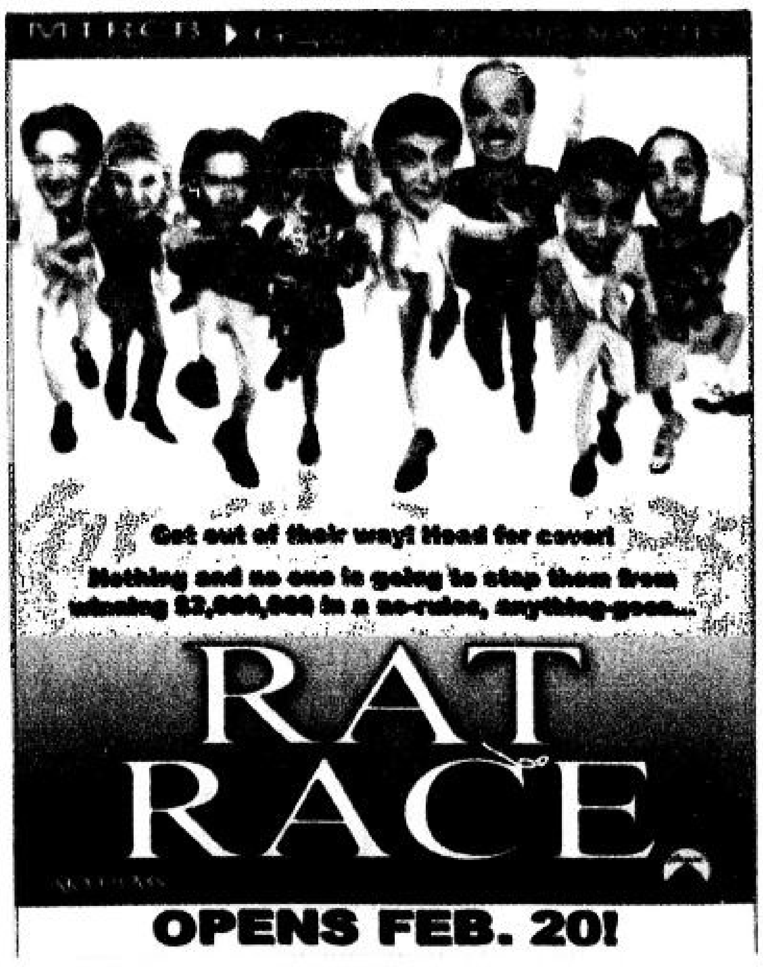
Words and lyrics for "Please" are by Jungee Marcelo. Music was arranged by Jimmy Antiporda, and back-up vocals by Moy Ortiz.

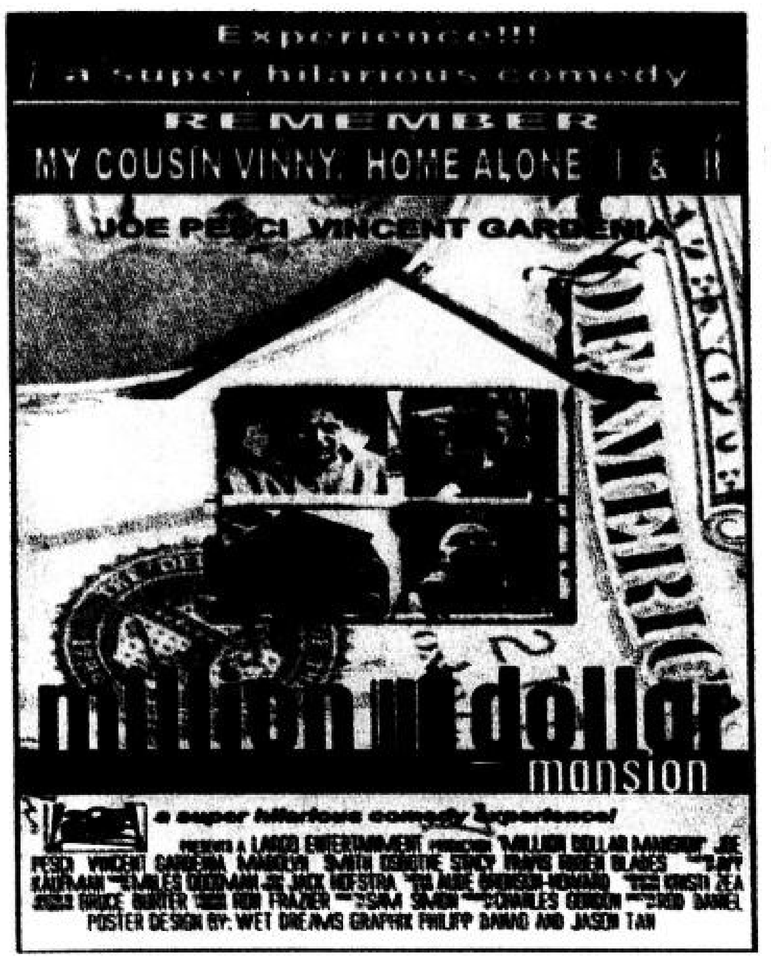
These guys did great work on other tracks, too, although they could not save the five flunkies of the lot. Arranger Alan Small-wood gets well-deserved credits, too, for work on "A Heart's Journey," Joe Mari's "I Have Found My World in You" and, best of all, for an unabashed tribute to the Beatles, "A Day in the Life of a Song."

But, and I'm nagging here, he couldn't do much for "Easier."

"Here and Now" is fine exactly as done by Joe with Aliya Parcs, but it is also an excellent material for cover versions. "A Phone Call" is possibly another voyeuristic peek into the artist's private life. If he's faking it, he gets an A.

These songs were recorded in a New York studio of Joe's choice. The expense shows in the finished product. Devoted fans would do well to return this extra care, by buying only original copies.


Get out of their way! Head for cover!
Nothing and no one is going to stop them from winning $2,000,000 in a no-rules, anything-goes...
RAT RACE
OPENS FEB. 20!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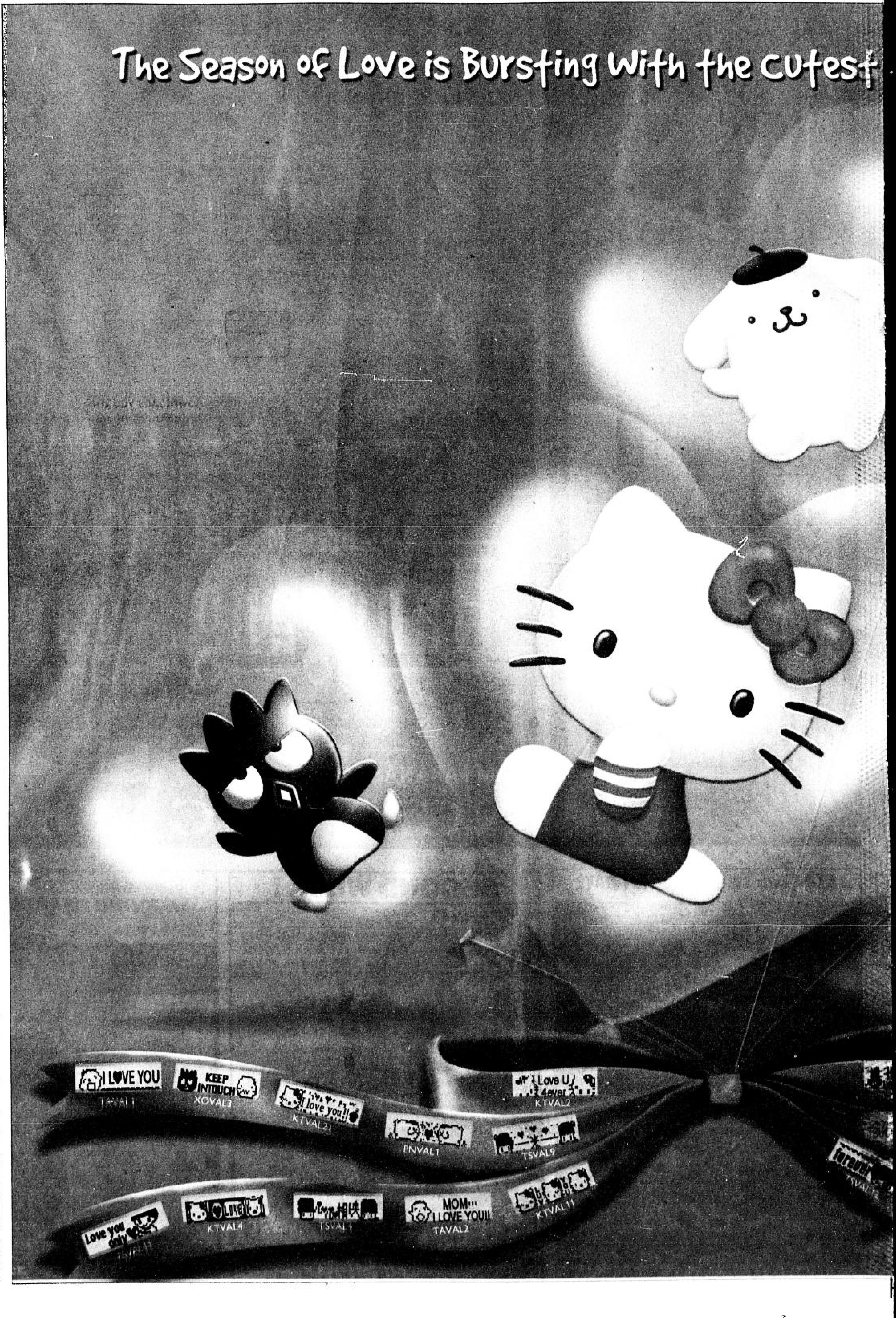
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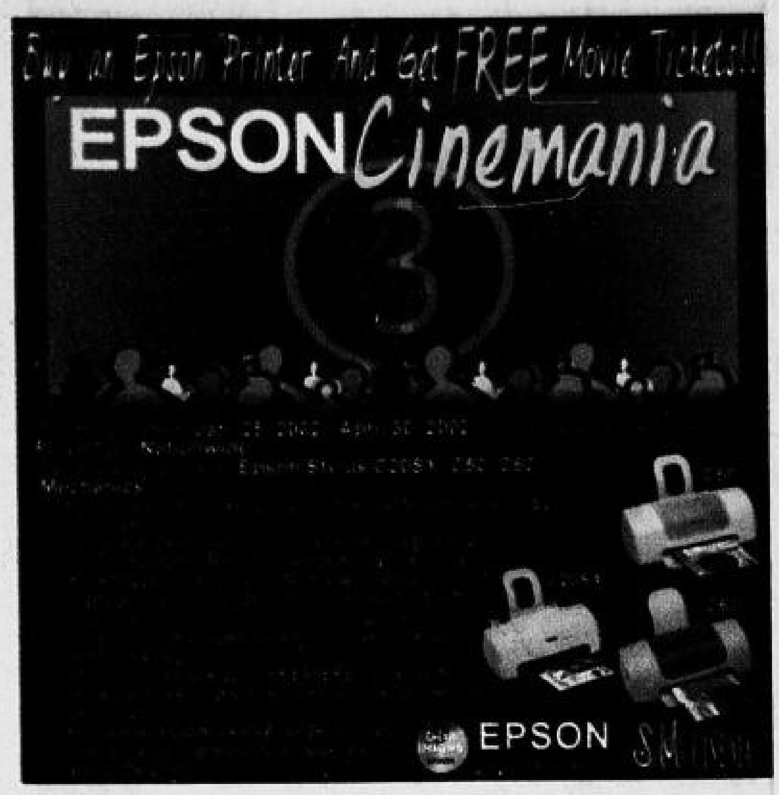
I love you!!
KTVAL21
PNVAL1
Love U 4ever 2
KTVAL2
TSVAL9
forever
Love you only
KTVAL4
TSVAL1
MOM!!! I LOVE YOU!!
TAVAL2
KTVAL11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Joey Marquez never hurts women, says sister Via

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

VIA Marquez-Hoffman, who is based in Sydney, has come to the defense of her younger brother, Parañaque Mayor **Joey Marquez**, following the breakup of his 12-year marriage to **Alma Moreno**.

Joey is expected to arrive today from the United States, where he reportedly filed for divorce. He and Alma were married in Las Vegas in 1989. In Manila, he is also seeking an annulment of their 1995 wedding.

Via says she and the rest of the family had no clue that the Joey-Alma marriage was breaking up.

"Last Dec. 11, they attended my birthday dinner and when they arrived, they were even holding hands when they entered the restaurant," Via recalls. "There wasn't any sign that they were having problems."

Via is in Manila for the annual medical mission, "Operation Smile," which surgically repairs, for free, the cleft palate and cleft lips of children of poor families in her brother's city. She helped bring in a team of surgeons and anesthesiologists from Australia to perform the surgeries.

Like many people, Via was shocked when she learned of the couple's separation late last month. A 31-year-old DJ from the NBC radio station in Cebu reportedly caused the breakup of the Joey-Alma marriage.

"At first, I didn't want to believe the rumors that there was really another guy," Via says. "But where there's smoke there's fire. Perhaps the last straw was this issue. My brother wouldn't have gone to the extent of filing for divorce if he was not convinced."

She points out it was Alma who left the couple's home in Tahanan Village, Parañaque, after participating in the Sinulog Festival in Cebu last month.

VIA MARQUEZ-HOFFMAN tells Alma: "I hope you realize the consequences of what you've done."

"Joey tried his best to save the marriage," Via says. "He even tried to win Alma back. He tried hard to stop her from leaving. But she insisted on having her way. She said she wanted her space."

Via denies reports that Alma left because Joey beat her up.

"My brother never hurts women," the sister says. "He respects women. He wouldn't even pinch them."

Via, however, admits she is aware of Joey's affairs and of his siring children with other women before he married Alma.

"I'm like a mother to my four other siblings," Via says. "Whenever I heard of an issue about Joey and another girl, I was always the first one to call him and scold him. Then he would just joke about it and tell me, *'Kasalanan ko ba kung guwapo ako?'* But I know Joey loves his family very much."

The day Alma left the couple's house, Via was there with Joey and his and Alma's three kids—**Yeoj**, **Win-Win** and **VJ**.

"I felt for them," she says. "The kids didn't want to go with Alma because they said she has no time for them.

"After the separation, whenever I visited them, I would almost cry when I'd see Joey with the kids in one bed. He tries his best to play a good single parent to them."

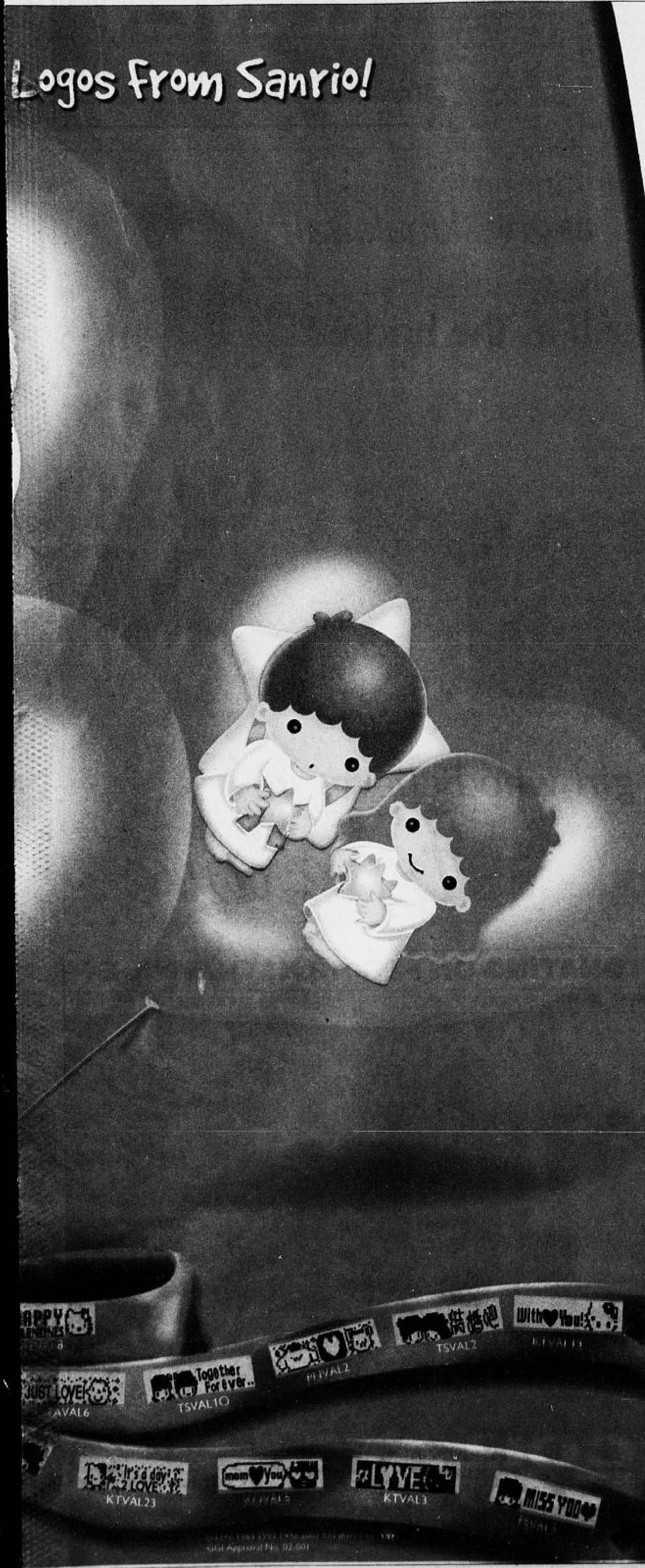
Does she think the separation will affect Joey's political career? "If you will ask the people of Parañaque, they will want to see Joey and Alma together. I've seen Alma's sacrifices for Joey during his previous election campaigns. She tirelessly campaigned for him."

But Via believes reconciliation between Joey and Alma is far-fetched at this point.

"I hope Alma realizes the consequences of what she's done," she says.

Addressing the rumored third party, Via says, "I really pity you if the rumors are true."

To Joey's kids, she says, "Love your dad because I know he loves you very much."



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1. The promo shall run from Feb. 10 to Feb. 28, 2002.
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10. Winners within Metro Manila may claim their prizes at the SMART Tower, 6799 Ayala Ave., Makati City. Provincial winners can claim their prizes at the nearest SMART office indicated in the registered mail.
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Boob-tube booboos

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

HOST: What is your pet peeve?

Starlet: People who talk against me behind their back!

(Hey, that's quite a trick!)

***

Host: What do you want to say to all the people who are saying all those bad things against you?

Starlet: *Ito lang*: Peace be upon with them!

(Huh?!)

***

Host: What is the most difficult thing about your new position as company CEO?

Guest: I have to hardly make decisions!

(What could he possibly want to say?—Oh, that he has to make hard decisions!)

***

Host: What do you think will be the trend in the movies this year?

Guest: I predict, youth movies will be selling hotcakes this year!

(*Ano daw?*)

***

Host: Has the new campaign against terrorism affected security precautions for public places now?

Official: Of course, our personnel will be more on the lookout. So, if there are suspected-looking persons, they will be apprehended!

(Suspected-looking persons?!)

***

Host: Why do you say that the arrival of American troops here is a health risk?

Guest: Of course, *magkakaroon ng* health risk, *kasi* knowingly *ang mga Kano mahilig sa* fresh *alam mo na*!

(No, *hindi namin alam*!)

***

Host: What is your answer to all the complaints we've received against your personnel?

Official: Sincerely, I mean this: *Kung may makita kayong* personnel *namin na gumagawa ng hindi masama, i*-report *n'yo*!

(*Ay, baliktad*!)

***

Host: What is the issue that the residents there in Mindanao are protesting against?

Field reporter: *Inirereklamo nila ang pananakot na patuloy na tinatanggap ng mga* kidnappers *dito*!

(*Baliktad na naman*!)

***

Host: *Alam mo, ang ganda ng* underarm *mo*, it's so *kinis*!

Guest: I admit, I'm so blessed, *kasi* never *ako nagkaroon ng hairs sa* underarm *ko*!

(Spare us all the un-hairy details—please!)

Viva TV's treats

VIVA TV's 2002 treats are led by the new season of "Who Wants to Be A Millionaire," which starts telecasting on IBC-13 at 8 p.m. today, Feb. 10. The quiz show will now be seen at 9 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays, and at 8 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays.

"Star for A Night" is another import from London that is expected to click with local with local viewers because it is a launching pad for new performing talents.

"The Weakest Link" will air at 9 p.m. on

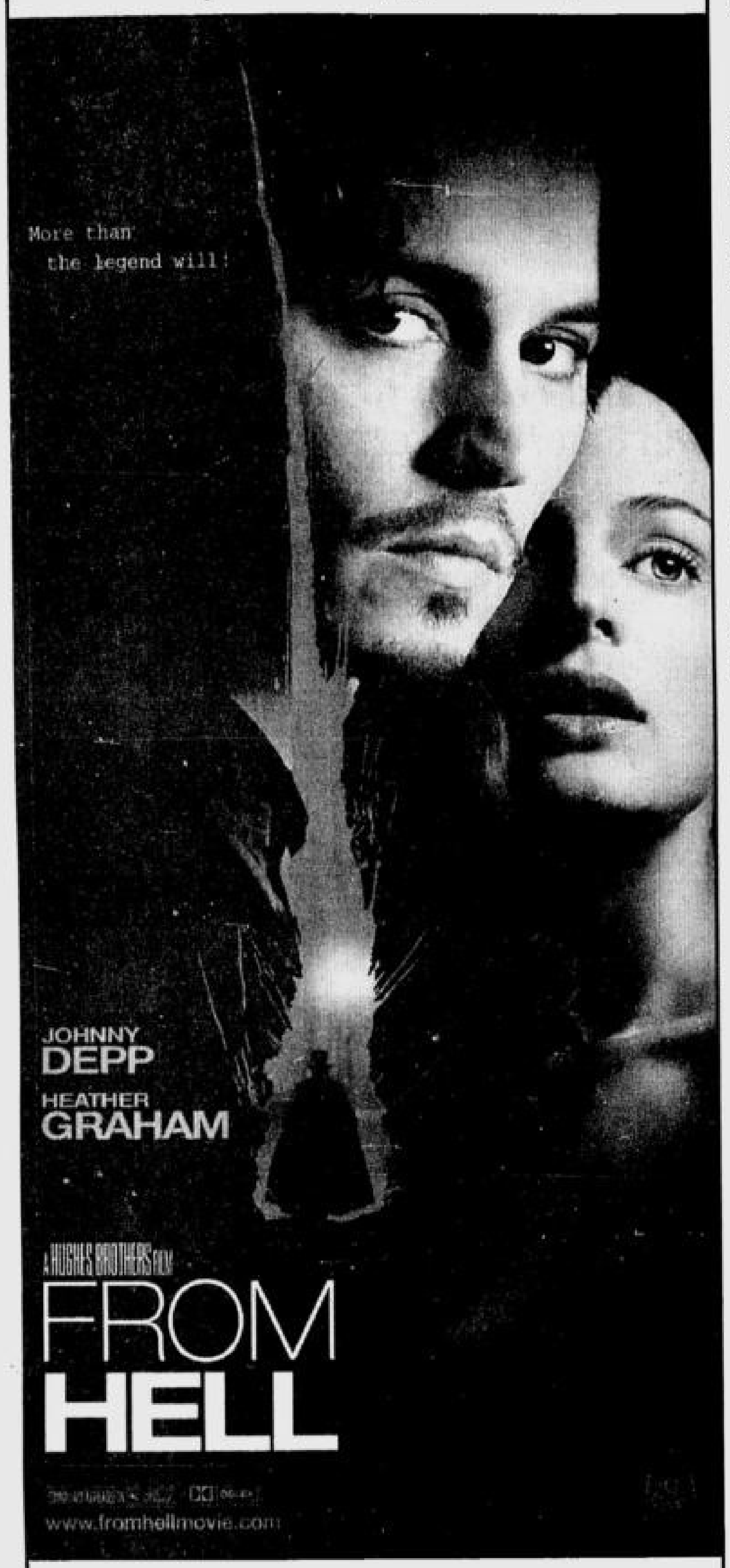
BOOB/ A29

POWER PLANT
CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND EX

OCEAN'S ELEVEN - P13 11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30	KATE & LEOPOLD - GP 11:50, 2:30, 5:10, 7:50, 9:10, 10:30	BLACK HAWK DOWN - P 13 12:55, 3:50, 6:45, 9:40
MARSHALL DICK - P 13 12:25, 2:40, 4:55, 7:10	FROM HELL - R 18 11:30, 2:05, 4:40, 7:15, 9:50	VANILLA SKY - R 18 11:30, 2:00, 4:40, 7:25, 10:10

Matinee, P80, Mon.-Fri., 11:00 am to 4:45 pm Screenings, Free Seating.

MTRCB RATING R-18 | Special thanks to: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1 VANILLA SKY in SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND	1 BLACK HAWK DOWN in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND	5 THE OTHERS in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND	1 FROM HELL in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND	1 VANILLA SKY THX in DSD/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
2 KATE & LEOPOLD in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND	2 OCEAN'S ELEVEN in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND	6 KATE & LEOPOLD in DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND	2 VANILLA SKY in SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND	2 KATE & LEOPOLD in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3 BLACK HAWK DOWN in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND	3 VANILLA SKY THX in DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND	7 FROM HELL in DTS DIGITAL SOUND	3 KATE & LEOPOLD in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND	3 BLACK HAWK DOWN in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4 KUNG IKAW AY ISANG PANAGINIP in DTS DIGITAL SOUND	4 MARSHALL DICK in DTS DIGITAL SOUND Art Film		4 PROMISES PROMISES FEB. 8, 9, 10, 14, 15, 16 - 9 PM Onstage	4 FROM HELL in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
				5 OCEAN'S ELEVEN in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

The Ayala malls Events

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

MAKATI

AYALA CENTER MAKATI
Events Ad Box
Week of Feb. 11-17, 2002

VALENTINES DAY AT AYALA CENTER

- Romancin' G4 at Glorietta 4 Park

Feb. 11 / 6 pm	Vina Morales
Feb. 12 / 6 pm	Side A

- Comedy Club at Greenbelt Mall

Feb. 12 / 7 pm	Jon Santos
Feb. 13 / 7 pm	John Lapuz

- Moonlight Serenade at Greenbelt 2

Feb. 14 / 7 pm	Ogie Alcasid
Feb. 15 / 7 pm	Ariel Rivera

Chinese New Year at the Glorietta Activity Center

Enjoy a Chinese food festival from Feb. 12 to 16, 2002 featuring sumptuous dishes as presented by the following hotels: Hotel InterContinental Manila, Makati Shangri-la, New World Renaissance, Mandarin Oriental Manila and The Peninsula Manila.

ALABANG

ALABANG TOWN CENTER EVENTS

Feb. 8-17
JO-LIZA FURNITURE FAIR
Activity Center

Feb. 10
APO HIKING SOCIETY
& AGOT ISIDRO
VALENTINES DINNER SHOW -
Town Plaza, 7 PM

Tickets available at ALMON MARINA, DELIFRANCE, DULCINEA, FAT TUESDAY, HERC'S & SAN MIG.

4 ticket holders will get a chance to win overnight stay for 2 at the MANDARIN ORIENTAL HOTEL

Feb 13 & 14
DRAGON-LION DANCE
Mallwide, 2 PM

For inquiries please call ATC customer service at 842-2782

CEBU

CALENDAR AD
For the period of Feb. 1 to 3, 2002

Valentine Card Making & Cookie Decorating Contest
Feb. 3, 10 & 24, 2002
(3:30 PM, Activity Center)

USC Festival of the Arts
Feb. 1, 2002
(4:00 PM, Activity Center)

Fashion Show w/ Latin Band
Feb. 1, 2002
(6:30 PM, Lagoon Area)

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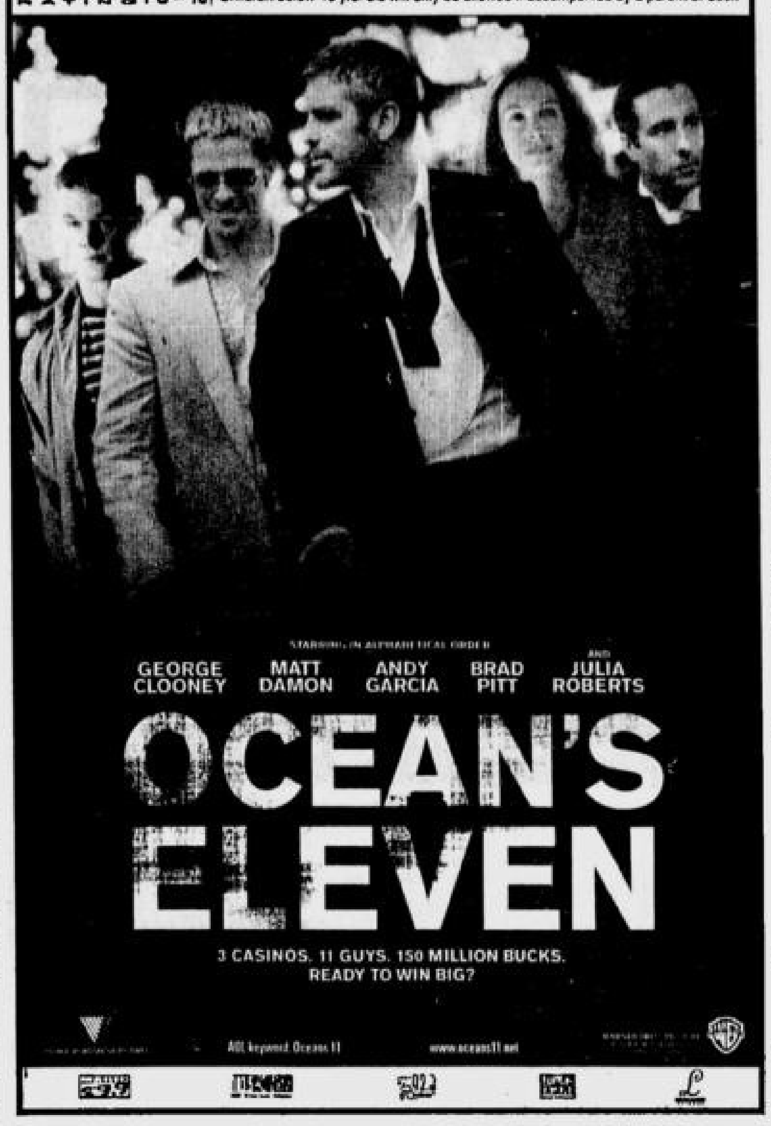
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GEORGE CLOONEY
MATT DAMON
ANDY GARCIA
BRAD PITT
AND JULIA ROBERTS
OCEAN'S ELEVEN
3 CASINOS. 11 GUYS. 150 MILLION BUCKS. READY TO WIN BIG?
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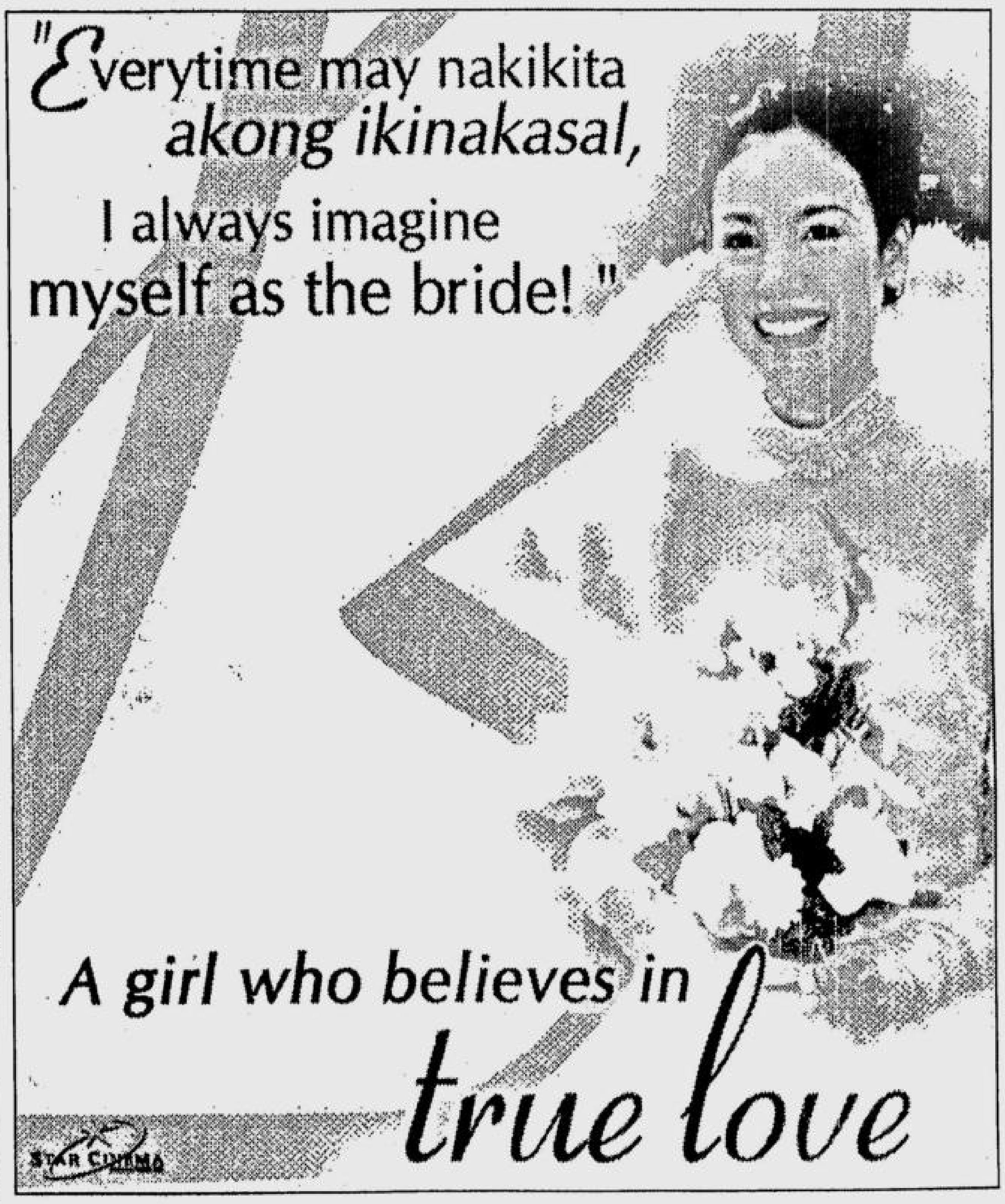
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A girl who believes in true love
STAR CINEMA

DETONATING ON FEB. 13 NATIONWIDE!
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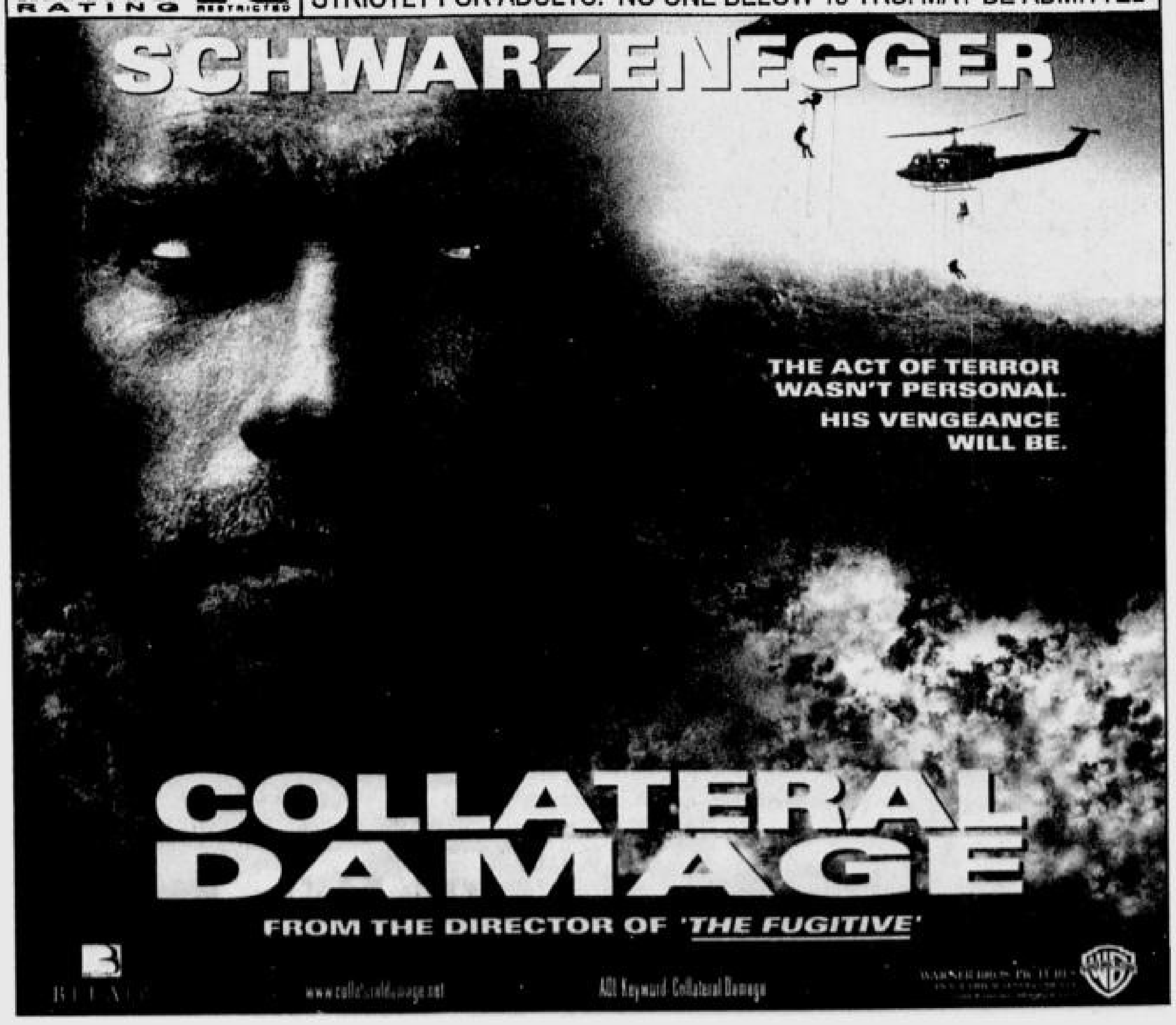
SCHWARZENEGGER
THE ACT OF TERROR WASN'T PERSONAL. HIS VENGEANCE WILL BE.
COLLATERAL DAMAGE
FROM THE DIRECTOR OF 'THE FUGITIVE'
www.collateraldamage.net
AOL Keyword: Collateral Damage

Boob-tube booboos

From page A28

Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays starting on Monday, Feb. 11.

Two animé shows will be introduced: "Crayon Chin Shan" is about a mischievous boy who is a cross between Dennis the Menace and Freddy Kruger (!). And "Cyborg Kurochan" is a "supercat" who is dedicated to saving the world from evil.

Monday, Feb. 11 will also see the telecast of the first episode of the new *telenovela*, "Natalia," at 10 p.m. This will be followed by "Por Un Beso" at 10:30 p.m.

'Miong'

"MIONG," Rep's musical on **Emilio Aguinaldo**, will be restaged this month. It will be performed today at the William J. Shaw Theater at Shangri-La Mall.

From Feb. 14 to 16, the musical will play at the University of the East Theater. From Feb.18 to 20, it moves to the Far Eastern University Theater.

Aiza, Matet on 'Maala-ala Mo Kaya'

THE VALENTINE episode of "Maala-ala Mo Kaya" at 9 p.m. on Feb. 14 casts Aiza Seguerra and Matet de Leon in a different kind of love triangle.

The third person in the triangle is played by Patrick Garcia. He falls in love with Matet and asks Aiza to help him in his suit, not knowing that Aiza has always had a crush on him.

The plot thickens further when Matet reveals her feelings for Aiza. Can a way be found to unravel this mess of conflicting emotions?

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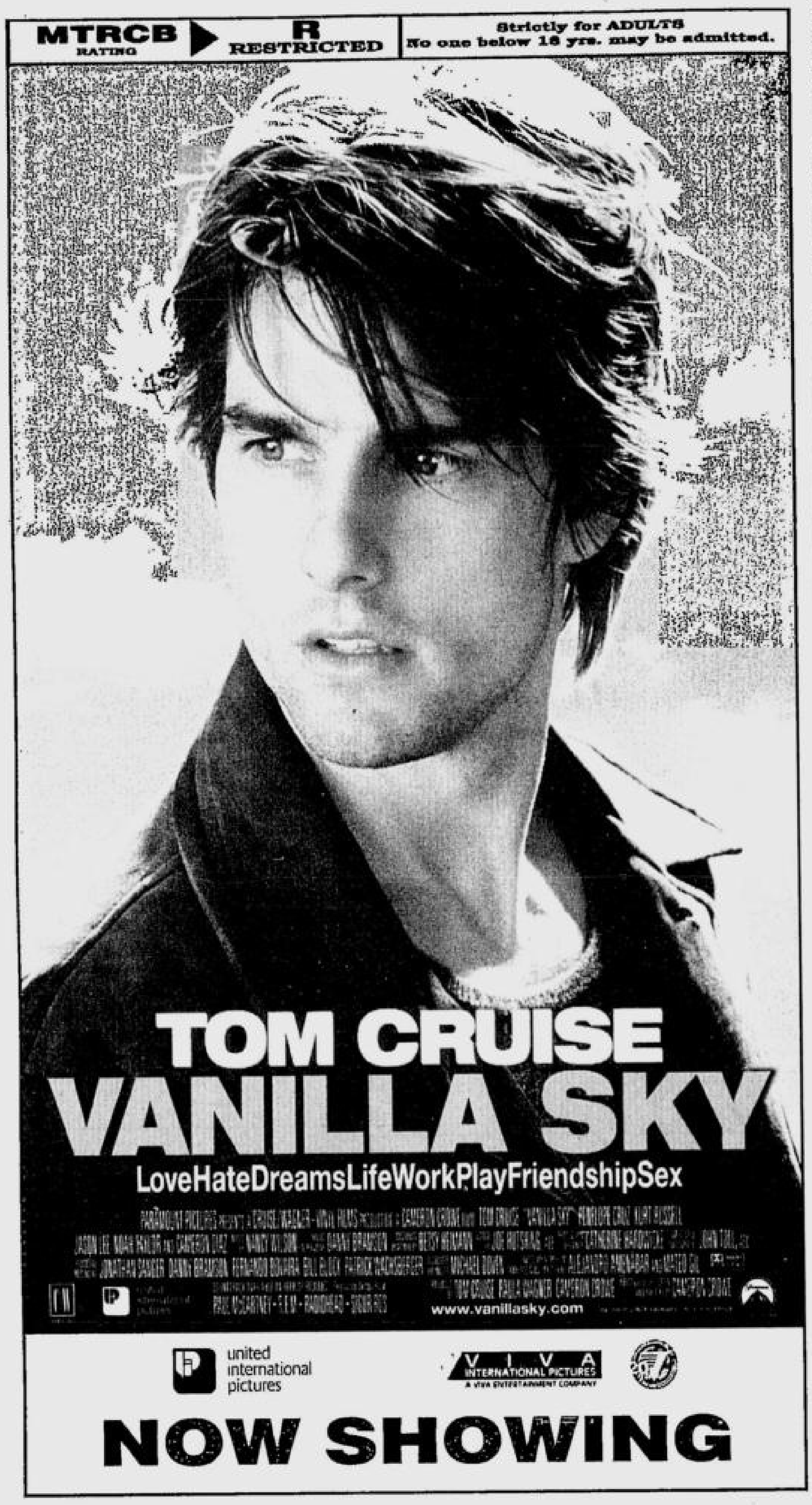
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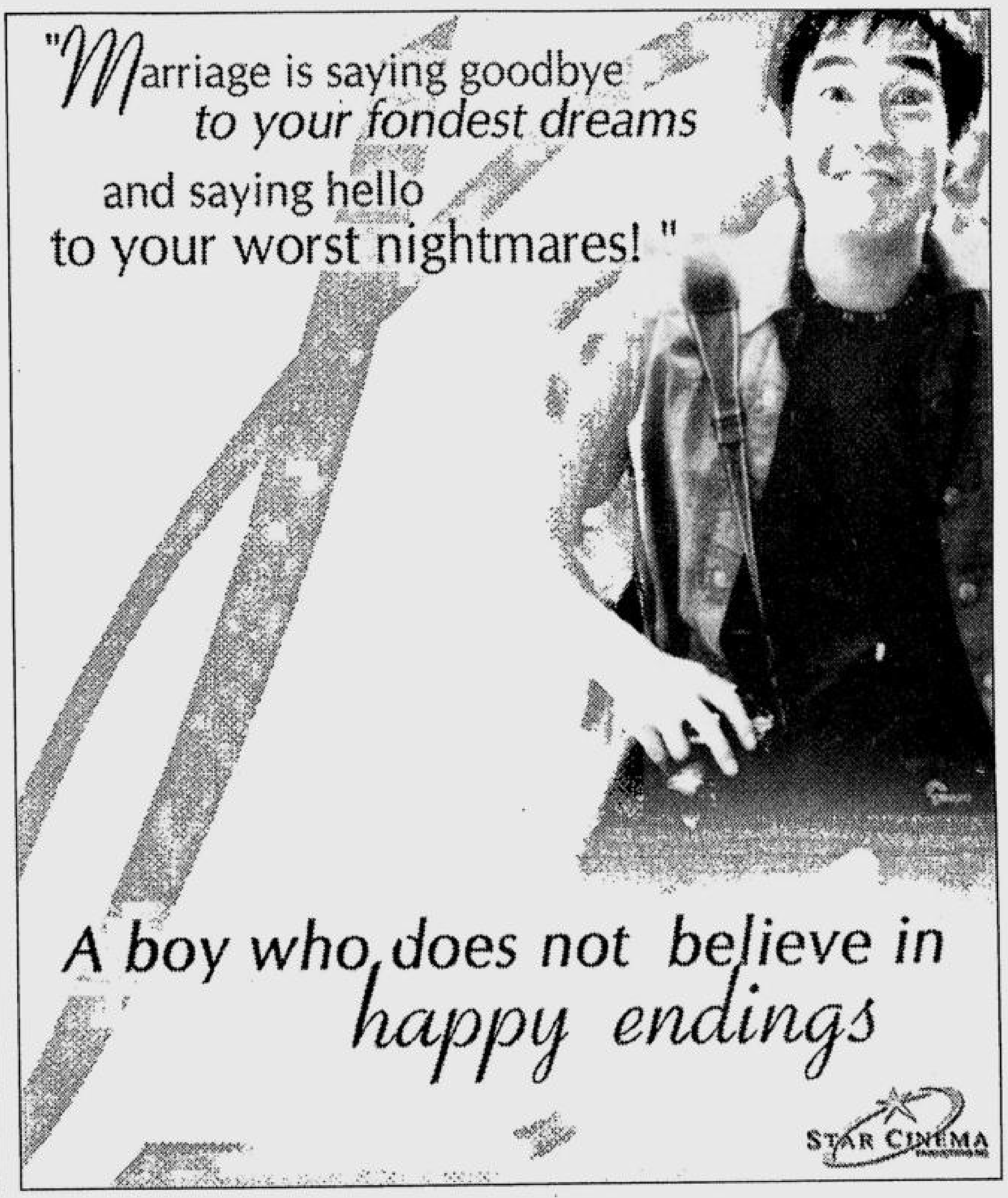
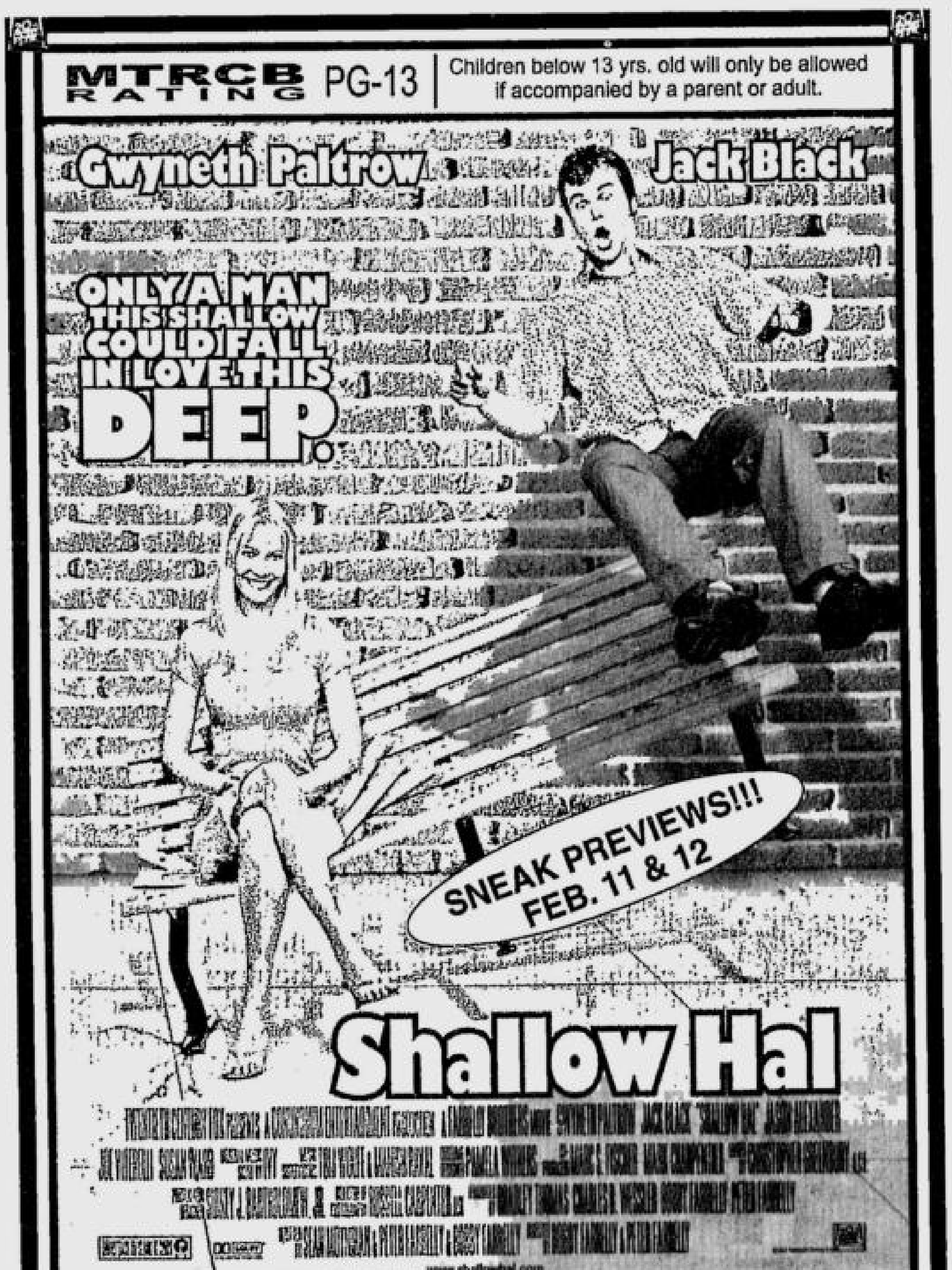

"Marriage is saying goodbye
to your fondest dreams
and saying hello
to your worst nightmares! "
A boy who does not believe in
happy endings
STAR CINEMA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Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.
Gwyneth Paltrow
Jack Black
ONLY A MAN THIS SHALLOW COULD FALL IN LOVE THIS DEEP.
SNEAK PREVIEWS!!!
FEB. 11 & 12
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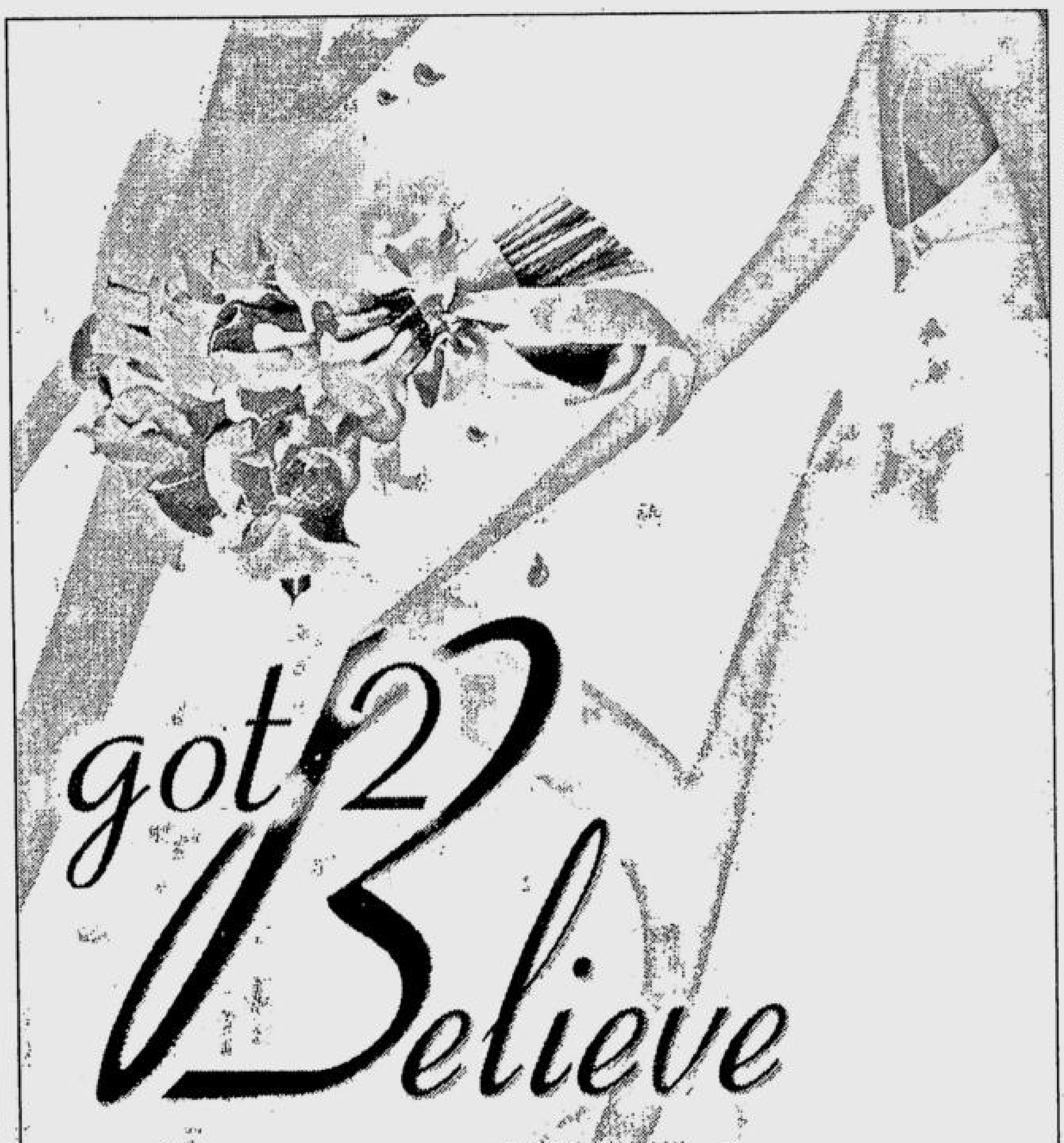
www.shallowhal.com
OPENS FEBRUARY 20 !


got 2 Believe
DIRECTED BY OLIVIA M. LAMASAN
STAR CINEMA

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

"PA-KILIG" best describes Jolina Magdangal and her songs.

VAL HANDUMON

Jolina too busy for romance

By Marinel R. Cruz

ROMANCE is not her current concern, says young star Jolina Magdangal. Jolens, known for singing romantic ballads like the remake of the Anita Bryant original "Paper Roses," says she wants to concentrate on acting and making songs.

She's basking in the success of her movie "Kung Ikaw ay Isang Panaginip" and of her album "Panaginip," which recently received a gold award for selling 30,000 copies only three months after its release.

"*Pa*-cute" is how her versions of "Crying Time," "Paper Roses," "Panaginip" and "Puppy Love" can be described, very much like her image and the "kilig" effect she has on her fans.

"I want teens to appreciate and relate to the music of the '60s and '70s," she says.

Jolina likes Madonna "because she knows how to reinvent herself. When you listen to her, you know that she's been through a lot."

Like her American idol, Jolina wants change in every album she makes, "though not necessarily in the genre, at least in the packaging of the album *kasi may hatak talaga 'yon*," she explains.

This early, she is already working on another record, which she describes as a tribute to some contemporary composers, like Danny Tan, Willy Cruz, Vhenee Saturno, George Canseco and David Pomeranz.

Even after performing in concerts abroad, like her Feb. 8 show at the Alex Theater in Glendale, California, where fellow Star Records artist Roselle Nava joined her, she feels she is not yet ready to mount anything major here.

"I just think that since I want it (concert) to be really special, I have to devote all my time to it," she says. "I still have other commitments at the moment."

She also performed during the Hula Bowl halftime at the War Memorial Stadium in Maui, Hawaii, and opened a branch of her now famous Jolina fashion gallery at Musikang Pilipino in West Covina.

She is also hosting Channel 22's newest weekly talk show, "Cover Story." She records three days a week for the show, which airs Mondays at 10 p.m.

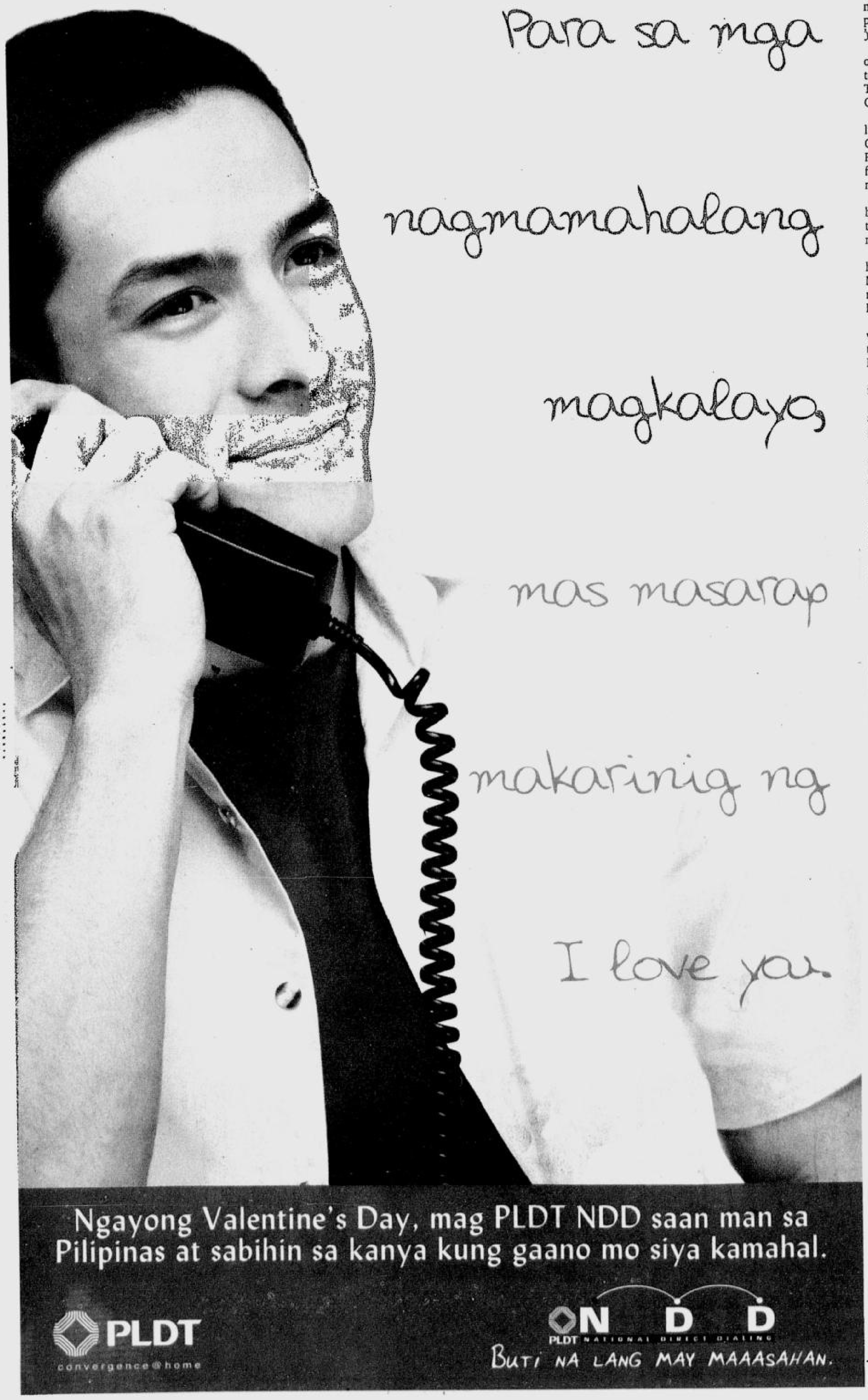
"It's hard but I'm learning a lot and enjoying it," she admits.

She feels rewarded when she discovers something new about her guests, and even about herself, in every show.

"I empathize with people who interview stars," she says. "I know how interviewers feel when they don't get the answers they expect. This is why sometimes, they tend to answer for their subjects."

She says she sifts her questions and makes sure that her guests are comfortable when she interviews them in her show.

"It's not an *intriga* show," she says. "It's simply about what stars want to share about themselves."


Para sa mga
nagmamahalang
magkalayo,
mas masarap
makarinig ng
I love you.

Ngayong Valentine's Day, mag PLDT NDD saan man sa Pilipinas at sabihin sa kanya kung gaano mo siya kamahal.

PLDT convergence@home

PLDT NDD NATIONAL DIRECT DIALING
BUTI NA LANG MAY MAAASAHAN.

JOJO (center) and fellow Tigers Paolo Alejar (left), his brother and a marketing executive, and Ed Palabrica, general manager of a holding company.

Jojo Alejar brings back Tigers for Valentine's show

WHILE other artists will regale audiences with music in Valentine concerts, Jojo Alejar—he of "Penthouse Live" and "That's Entertainment" fame—will do it with music and dancing.

Jojo brings an added treat in his Feb. 14 show by bringing back the Tigers, the dance group that he led and that earned admiring shrieks from audiences during its peak. All three members of the Tigers are now professionals.

Jojo himself, a Political Science graduate of the University of Sto. Tomas, is a familiar face at the House of Representatives where he works as an aide of Parañaque City Rep. Ed Zialcita.

Through songs and dances, Jojo promises a nostalgic night in the show he calls "Funky Love, An Evening of Love Songs and Dance." His guests, aside from the other members of Tigers, are new artist Donna and Ferdie "Primo" Topacio, "the singing lawyer."

"Funky Love" is happening at the Platinum Music City at the Atrium Hotel, Gil J. Puyat (Buendia) Avenue corner Taft Avenue in Pasay City.

The show starts at 9 p.m.

"Funky Love" is sponsored by 26 Bistro Torillo, Eligarde Enterprises, EDZA Foundation, ACS Construction and Development Co., A Taste of L.A. Café, La Fayette Pharmaceuticals and Eurotiles, for the benefit of the Boses ng Kabataan Foundation.

SundayBIZ

Editor Raul O. Marcelo ◎ Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

Ex-central banker used to sweat it out in courts for ₱100 a month

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

GABRIEL C. Singson may have sat in the air-conditioned offices of the Central Bank for over 40 years, but time was when he sweated it out in local courts and defended an assortment of clients in his starched suits.

After finishing law from the Ateneo de Manila University, then located along Padre Faura Street in Manila, the former head of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas joined the law firm of Jose P. Bengzon, father of former Health Secretary Alfredo Bengzon, who was his father's town mate.

FIRST JOB

He reported for work at Bengzon's Escolta office and was paid P100 a month.

The bar results came out 10 months after he graduated. He was the second highest, was promoted to associate attorney from legal assistant, and got a P20 salary increase.

But while his pay was not very substantial, he was allowed to take on his own cases, which provided him with a substantial income of between P500 and P2,000 each.

His memorable cases included a qualified theft case that was mired in local politics and culminated in a brawl in the courtroom where he had to seek police protection.

Another case involved a 1950s beauty queen who was suing her husband for concubinage.

He also handled poor people's cases, like a driver who sued his employer for overtime pay.

The turning point came when another Ateneo graduate, Tomas Testa, was tasked by Gregorio Licaros, who headed import controls, to put up a group of top lawyers to prosecute violators of import controls.

Singson was recommended by then Ateneo Law School Dean Deogracias Reyes, father of former Pilipinas Shell head Oscar Reyes.

At the same time, Singson got a call from Justice Alex Reyes, who offered him a job as a technical assistant in the Supreme Court.

But when Reyes asked him what his ambition was as a lawyer, Singson said his reply was to be successful in his practice.

Reyes promptly told him the Supreme Court was not the place for that.

He then got a call from the Ateneo dean, and Singson said he thought he was finally accepted to teach, but Reyes asked him instead to join the group of Testa.

Although reluctant, as he did not want to work for the government, he agreed to check out the job anyway.

"I did not even know the office of the CB," Singson said. At that time, the CB was in Intramuros.

During the meeting with Testa, Singson told him he was not interested. To which Testa told him: "That's the problem with us Ateneo graduates. We complain about graft and corruption, but we don't want to do anything about it. We don't want to work for the government."

Testa enticed him with prospects of travel and asked him to just try it out for six months.

Singson said he talked to Jose Bengzon and asked if he could be given a six-month leave to give the CB offer a try.

However, he turned down CB's first pay offer, which was P490 a month.

. "I was already earning P400 a month, plus my earnings from the cases."

CB increased its offer just a little but offered a higher rank, which was assistant division chief.

SINGSON had always been the best man for over 10 years until he finally became the groom in 1993.

In his first six months, he was sent to Taiwan to look into the Henderson Trippe case that involved the valuation of a vessel.

But after six months, he wanted to go back to private practice. CB did not want to let him go.

Since he really felt government work was not his cup of tea, he talked to Jose Bengzon to explain his situation and asked that he be allowed to go back anytime.

Singson smiles, saying after spending four decades in government service, he still has a job waiting for him as a private lawyer.

He says he stayed in CB because he eventually found the work exciting.

In between, he was able to get a master of law degree from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor as a Dewitt Fellow and a Fulbright scholar.

He also taught law at the Ateneo between 1956 and 1972.

His career climb in CB was fast. "I moved the fastest among my contemporaries," he recalls.

He joined CB on Dec. 16, 1955 and became deputy governor in only 20 years.

In 1980, he became senior deputy governor.

But while his career climb was fast until the Top 2 positions, it dragged there, and he was labeled "always the best man, never the groom."

He stayed in the No. 2 post for over 10 years and served four CB governors—Licaros, Jaime Laya, Jose B. Fernandez and Jose L. Cuisia.

After serving the government for over 30 years, surviving four presidents and tendering three resignations (every time a new governor was posted), he finally became a groom and made history at that.

He became the first governor of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas in 1993. Under the constitution, a central monetary authority was created to replace the Central Bank. The law was passed in 1992; the CB was abolished and the BSP took its place.

(Prior to his appointment as governor, he was briefly appointed as PNB president.)

It also helped that the president at that time was Fidel V. Ramos, who was a town mate and schoolmate of Singson.

Singson's long career in central banking has made him known in the international banking community.

And his various assignments at CB made him familiar with all aspects of the regulating body. He said during his term as governor, he made sure each of the deputy governors headed various departments on a rotation basis.

While in CB and BSP, he achieved numerous awards. He was featured in the Institutional Investor as "The decision makers' decision makers," together with Michel Camdessus, who later became head of the International Monetary Fund.

He was named "central banker of the year" several times by several publications and organizations.

He was "Management Man of the Year" and was honored by Congress in 1998.

In the end, however, Singson still got what he wanted—private practice, but without the leg work, and the heat and crowd of local court rooms.

Singson is now adviser to the "Who's Who" in Philippine business, in particular taipan John Gokongwei Jr.

When he retired from the BSP in 1998 at age 70, his salary was roughly P3 million a year. Today, by just being himself, he earns over P20 million a year.

And the best part is Singson looks good and his mind remains sharp.

Asked if he ever regretted going into government, he says, "Perhaps, if I did not become governor."

GABBY and wife Moonyeen at the largest tulip garden in Holland

FLASHBACK

THE ERA was the '50s and the minimum wage then was P4 a day. Rice cost P1 per kilo while a radio cost about P100. Gabriel Singson spent his first pay of P100 dating and going to the movies. In 1957 his dad bought a lot—his gift for landing the second highest grade in the 1952 bar exams.

He borrowed P13,500 to build a house that cost P18,000 in Quezon City along Scout Delgado.

Singson was a bachelor who had his own pad in 1957. In 1959, he bought a second hand Plymouth for P1,000.

He got married in 1962.

In 1977, he bought a lot in Greenhills, where he still stays for only P200 per square meter. Total price tag for his 750 sq.m. lot was only P150,000.

The cost of that lot was the amount of his basic monthly pay when he became BSP governor. But today, he is probably one of the highest paid consultants in the country.

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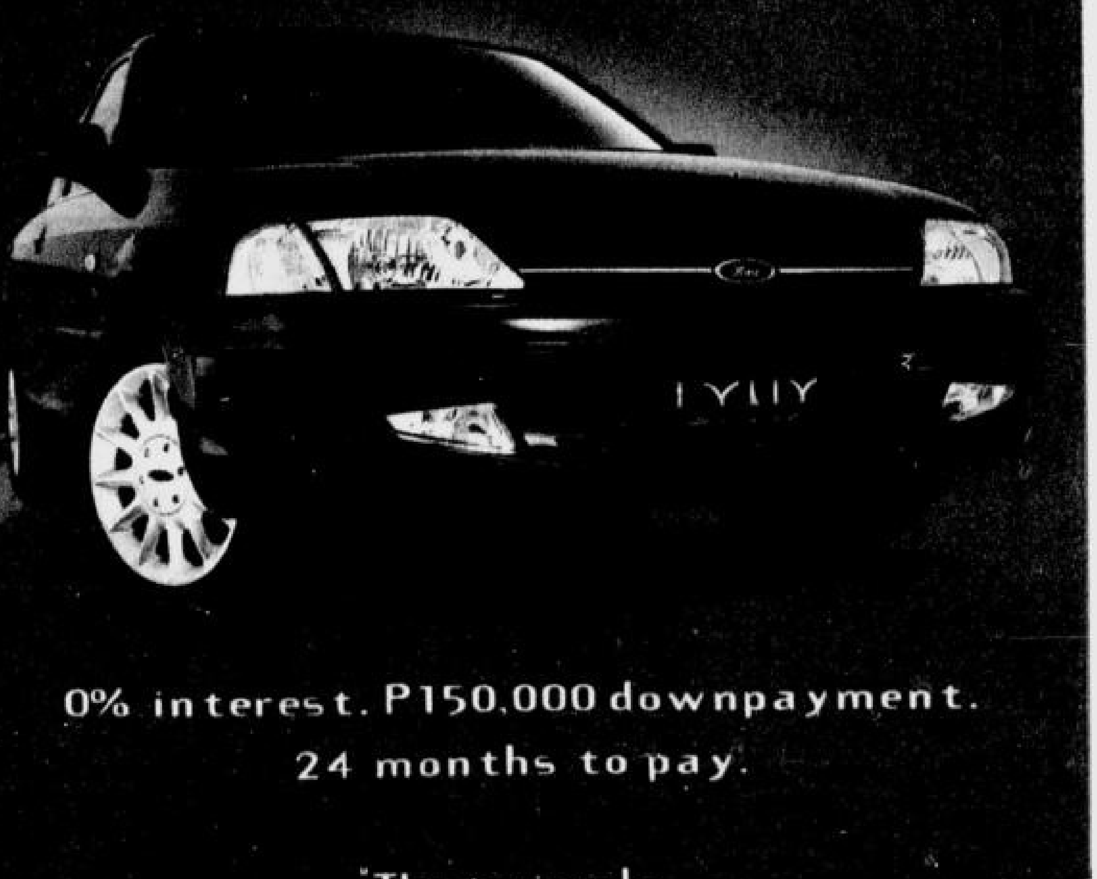
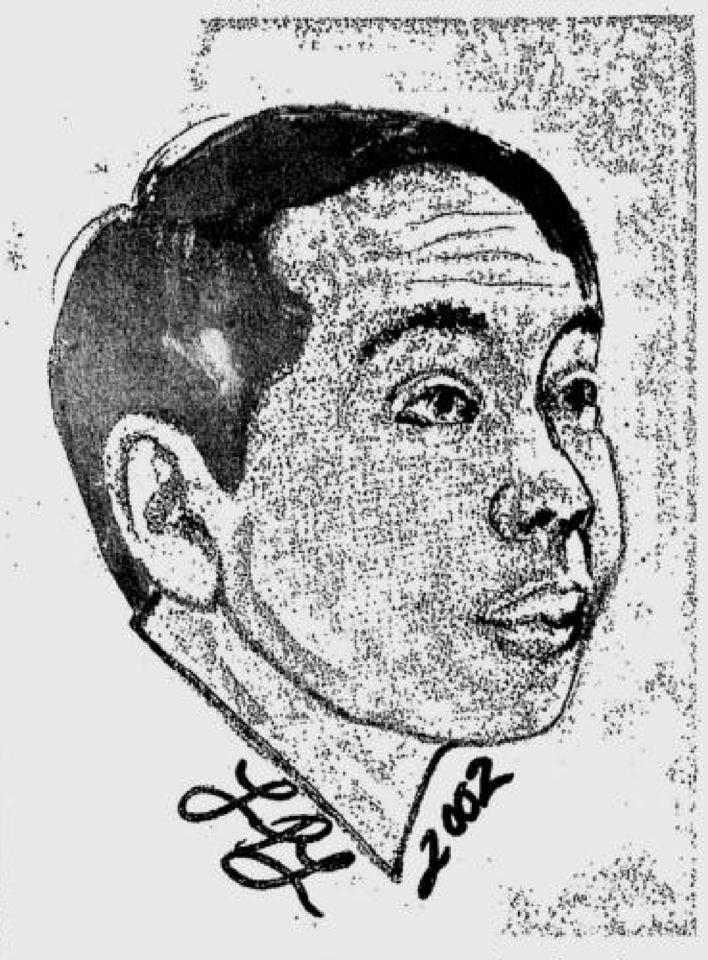


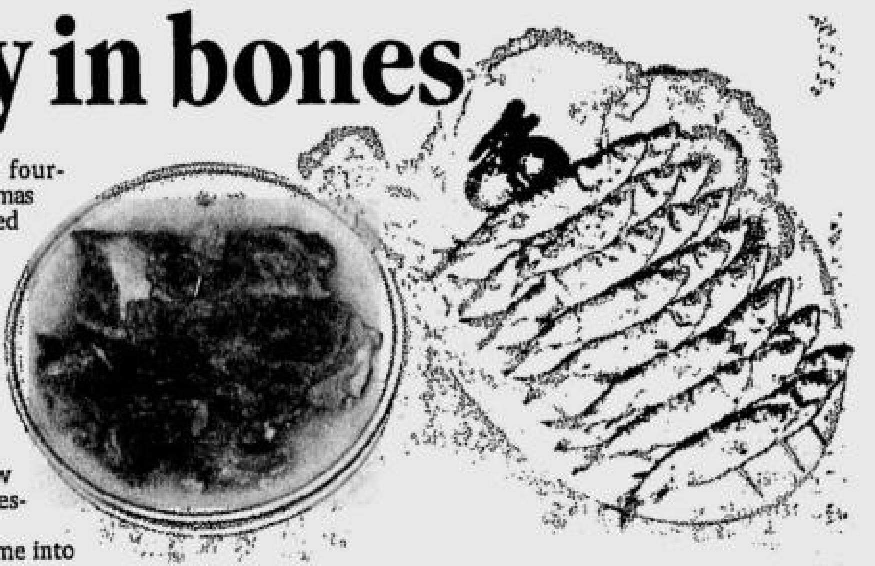
IN YOUR FACE BY L.P. LEVISTE



NATIONAL Treasurer Sergio "Boy" Edeza was brought to the limelight recently by the controversial Peace bonds. It was Edeza who insisted on auctioning off the bonds instead of agreeing to a negotiated sale. This he did at a time when he was also busy pushing government borrowing rates down.

CHOWKING'S new Lingayen outlet, the company's 200th store in the Philippines, sports Chowking's new retail identity and offers the same freshly cooked, delicious Oriental meals that have made it the fastest growing Oriental quick-serve restaurant in the country.

There's money in bones



By Mei Magsino
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

STO. TOMAS, Batangas—Reaching this town about 50 kilometers south of Manila, the gate to Batangas province, motorists can't simply resist the urge to stop at the unofficial but regular bus stop and relish the legendary Rose and Grace's *bulalo*.

For a worn-out traveler, the taste of hot, salty, slightly sweet, spicy, and beefy flavor of *bulalo* broth—that goes smoothly down your throat, warms up the cold stomach, heats up the tired body and brings cool perspiration—makes one feel more alive.

And the tender meat comes as a bonus.

The bone marrow? It's Christmas in paradise. It could be the taste, or maybe the timing.

But for restaurant owner Conchita Ascaño, there is no secret recipe for her special *bulalo* that all the presidents, the presidents' men, and people who come to the restaurant since 1970 have enjoyed.

"It's just the same procedure as any *bulalo* you eat anywhere. I think what made our *bulalo* here so special is our location," 62-year-old Ascaño said.

True enough, people who pass through Sto. Tomas on their way to Batangas, Laguna, Quezon, and the Bicol Region would want nothing more than good food.

Travelers find it amazing to be able to eat home-cooked goodness on the way to their destination.

"Most restaurants would offer low-quality food fortravelers because they think that hungry people would eat anything edible and hot," Ascaño said, "but here, we're not just after the profit. We serve good food that travelers deserve."

In the family

Ascaño, also known as Nanay Conching, learned to cook from her mother. She said cooking had been her passion from the very start.

Although she was a seamstress when she married her late husband Benjamin, when they lived at Sangley Point in Cavite City, she still cooked for the officers' wives.

When she opened up a four-table *carinderia* at the Sto. Tomas crossing in 1970, people called her cooking "excellent."

She named her small restaurant Excellent.

That time, a kilo of beef was only P3 and an order of *bulalo* was only 90 centavos.

In 1976, she transferred to the Maharlika Highway, also in Sto. Tomas. The new location helped Excellent restaurant grow.

She then changed its name into Rose and Grace, after her two daughters.

Later, they offered more Filipino dishes at the restaurant. But the famed *bulalo* would always take the center stage. *Pinangat na tambakol* and fried *tawilis* were also famous for the authentic taste found only at the restaurant.

Tawilis is the only fresh water herring found in Taal Lake, also in Batangas.

Since then, with more and more people coming to get a taste of the legendary *bulalo*, the restaurant expanded with more than 20 tables, bigger kitchen, more helpers, and air-conditioning units.

Ascaño was also able to open up two more restaurants as the years passed.

THE BONES have it. One of the restaurant's regular customers eating his favorite bulalo.

Hard work

Ascaño believes she owes her success to hard work and dedication that have never waned since 1970. She still wakes up at 4 a.m. and sleeps at 12 midnight—sometimes, even at 4 a.m.—the same routine she had for the last 32 years.

Directly supervising her restaurant crew composed of 30 people, she says she never tires of training her people, that even if she leaves them for some errands, the restaurant would still work well.

The helpers, servers, and cooks who come to work at the Rose and Grace never left. Some even have their children and grandchildren there.

Nanay Fining, one of the helpers, has been there since 1974.

What made the helpers stay, she said, is the family-style management of Nanay Conching, who treats them all as family members.

AFTER ordering bulalo, travelers line the counter for their other favorite Filipino dishes.

PHOTOS BY MEI MAGSINO

Celebrities dine here

During the Toyota-Crispa era, when most Filipinos were hooked on basketball, basketball player-turned-senator Robert Jaworski was hooked on *bulalo*.

He would always find ways to go to Rose and Grace and have a bowl of steaming *bulalo* before or after each game.

Former Senator Miriam Defensor-Santiago is a regular customer here every Saturday at lunchtime after her visit to her dairy farm in Lipa City.

The Ascaño family has kept all the photos of the celebrities who have dined at Rose and Grace.

During the Apec Summit in 1996, the Department of Tourism awarded Rose and Grace a plaque of appreciation when the Apec members' espouses, on their way to Villa Escudero, stopped at the restaurant and were impressed by what they had found and tasted.

Presidents, senators, congressmen, truckers, travelers, and people from all walks of life have dined and returned to the restaurant.

Even restaurant owners from nearby towns would dine here and try to copy the taste, but as always, the authentic taste has remained original only at the restaurant.

"I think it's the Filipino's passion for good food that made us the leading restaurant here," Rose Ascaño-Espina said, "and when you talk of delicious *bulalo*, they'd always come here and return."

Rose and Grace has also become a favorite landmark for travelers.

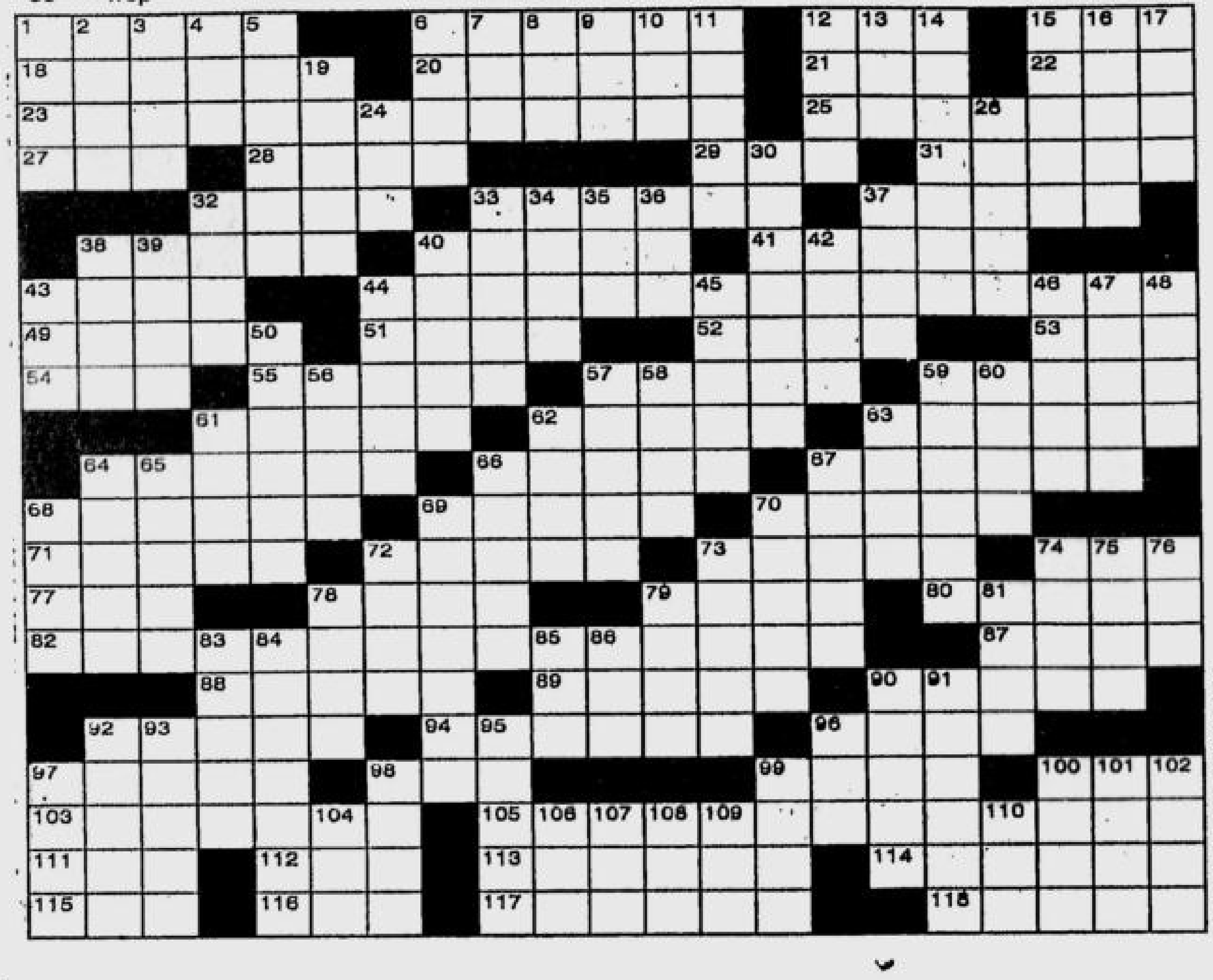
And as always, people would crowd at the restaurant, from early morning till dawn and get a taste of one of Batangas' legacy of good food right at its gate.

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Donna J. Stone

ACROSS
1 Beauty's beau
6 Wrap up
12 President Bush was one
15 Numbers man?
18 More painful
20 Swerve
21 Vigor's partner
22 Moon crawler
23 Riddle: Part 1
25 Mollify
27 Badminton stroke
28 Privy to
29 Fancy vase
31 Declaims
32 "Hey —" ('68 smash)
33 Order
37 Sign of summer
38 Texas landmark
40 "M" man
41 Contaminate
43 Author Dinesen
44 Riddle: Part 2
49 Sought silver
51 Makes leather
52 Like the Kalahari
53 — -wop
54 Tablet
55 Commodious
57 Nodded off
59 Cocky kids
61 Exodus edible
62 Annoyed
63 Melee
64 Illinois city
66 Riddle: Part 3
67 Votes in
68 Grand relative
69 "— of Fools" ('67 hit)
70 Prowl
71 Injures
72 Stuffable pasta
73 Big wheel on "Wheel"
74 Peckinpah or Wanamaker
77 Granada gold
78 Goatish gamboler
79 Shakespearean villain
80 New Mexico's state flower
82 Riddle: Part 4
87 Heavy reading?
88 Ponti's partner
89 French spa
90 Roofing material
92 Dennehy or Keith
94 Firstborn
96 Rachel's sister
97 Zagreb native
98 Needle feature
99 Sharp
100 — Dhabi
103 In a rough manner
105 Answer to riddle
111 Broad st.
112 Bend someone's — (yak)
113 Emulate Earhart
114 Tranquil
115 Petty or Poston
116 HST's successor
117 Conkling or Ates
118 Thoroughfares

DOWN
1 Holler
2 Narcissus' nymph
3 Melville monomaniac
4 Plop down
5 Monotony
6 Read quickly
7 Tolstoy title start
8 Branch
9 Pigskin prop
10 "Tell — No" ('65 hit)
11 Happen next
12 Writer Hunter
13 Sass
14 Lasting effect
15 Trolley sound
16 Trattoria treat
17 Iowa city
19 Sonata movement
24 Adversary
26 Big revolver?
30 Hit the hay
32 TV's "— and the Fatman"
33 Soft
34 Ages
35 "A — in the Dark" ('88 film)
36 Legal matter
37 Competed
38 — Minor
39 Arrive at Kennedy
40 Andes animal
42 Eager
43 Prankster
44 Right a wrong
45 Looks longingly
46 Proclamation
47 Greek vowels
48 Renowned seamstress
50 Daddy ducks
56 Step — (hurry)
57 Blue-dress wearer?
58 The yoke's on them
59 Like some stairs
60 Taxi
61 — Blanc
62 Lab equipment
63 Word with circus or collar
64 Cold-shoulder
65 Ballet company
66 "— Fall in Love" ('62 hit)
67 Savor
68 "Scat!"
69 Rampur relish
70 "The Dragons of Eden" author
72 Rational
73 Egyptian Nobelist
74 James Herriot, for one
75 Pinnacle
76 Dogpatch's Daisy —
78 Office plant
79 Egyptian deity
81 Hatch's home
83 Nom de crime?
84 Detested
85 With 93 Down, "Air Music" composer
86 First lady?
90 Goes after
91 Poet Sidney
92 Tenor's tribute
93 See 85 Down
95 "The Merry Widow" composer
96 Rock's — Zeppelin
97 Gab
98 Thornfield governess
99 Elbow's counterpart
100 On the briny
101 Curve
102 Applications
104 Little guy
106 "Ab —" (from the beginning)
107 "M*A*S*H" extras
108 Cul-de- —
109 From — Z
110 Theater sign



ANSWER ON PAGE A15

Starbucks brews a business in tea-drinking China

By Edwin Chan

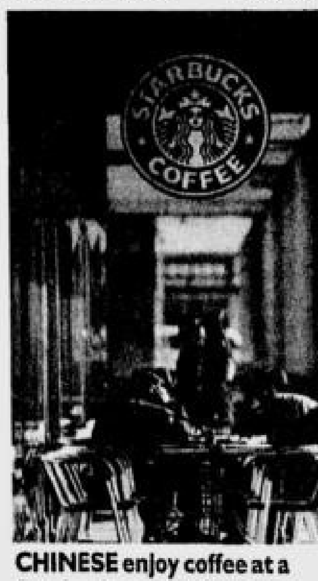
SHANGHAI—Starbucks has brewed a formula to sell coffee in tea-drinking China, where many of the 1.3 billion population consider the bitter beverage a foul-tasting luxury.

The US coffee chain is rapidly recovering from an early stumble to build a business tempting the taste buds of China's fashion-conscious urbanites.

A year ago, Starbucks whipped up a public furor when it opened an outlet among the labyrinth of grey stone courtyards in Beijing's centuries-old Forbidden City, the home of the Sons of Heaven or emperors.

At a time when sentiment was still inflamed from the US bombing of China's embassy in Yugoslavia during the 1999 Kosovo crisis, domestic media reported that 70 percent of Chinese would rather not see Starbucks share an address with their cherished national monument overlooking Tiananmen Square.

A compromise was reached. Starbucks won't discuss details, but the outlet is just a threadbare counter with a few seats tucked into a corner of a souvenir shop.



CHINESE enjoy coffee at a Starbucks outlet in Beijing.

The rest of the chain has become a fast-growing nouveau fashion statement in a country run by a communist party, but embracing capitalism.

"It's the feel of the place. It's very free. I like the music and it just feels relaxed," college student Dominique Wang, 25, said over her French language homework at a Shanghai outlet.

Starbucks' trademark green and white mermaid features in 49 outlets along China's chic shopping boulevards, most of them in the wealthier cities of Beijing and Shanghai.

The outlets with their cosy wood-panelled decor, western music and ground coffee aromas are now trendy venues for everything from intimate dates to power business meetings—or just places to relax with a good book.

Early days

The coffee industry has long slavered over China, which has a quarter of the world's population but accounts for less than one percent of coffee consumption, just 1,200 tons of roasted ground coffee a year. There is some way to go.

"Coffee? It's too bitter, I don't like it," said Chen Xiuzhi.

"All it did was keep me awake at night so I've switched back to Chinese tea," the portly housewife, 46, said while hanging her quilts out to dry in the afternoon sun.

Retiree Xue Xiuwen, 68, is proud of the fact she had never so much touched a drop of coffee in her life.

"My husband and I drink at least one canister of tea a day," she said, lounging on the pavement beside a neighborhood park. "We, oldtimers, like tea; it's only the young ones who like coffee."

Starbucks officials declined to discuss how the Chinese business fitted into the global picture, after the US firm reported its first-quarter net profits, for the three months to Dec.30, soared 40 percent year-on-year to $68.4 million.

"These are still early days of our expansion in the China market," Pedro Man, president of Starbucks Asia Pacific, told Reuters. "Our approach is very focused. We plan to open one store at a time, serve one customer at a time."

They've made some headway. Coffee imports leaped 75 percent to 9,468 tons in 2001. Instant coffee sales jumped 42 percent in the same period, according to research firm AC Nielsen.

"Coffee culture is now very fashionable. It's not America, which can't do without coffee, but it's gaining acceptance here," said Jimmy Jiang, a manager at British-invested CoffeeLox.

Starbucks may find its stores easier to open in three years, when China has pledged under World Trade Organization commitments to lift joint venture restrictions on chain stores.

However, more liberal retail laws and the ability to own distribution channels will also whet the appetites of rival foreign coffee chains.

A slew of coffee chains from Italy's Bonomi and Bella to Japan's UCC Ueshima Coffee and Hong Kong's Kamperey have labored to win over Chinese taste buds.

A slow brew

The owners of Starbucks' China franchises are all too aware of the yawning cultural rifts they are struggling to bridge.

"Our expansion is still far short of our plan, it's not enough. The market's development has not been what we'd expected," said Rebecca Zhou, a marketing executive with Beijing Mei Da Coffee Co., which owns the Starbucks franchise in the capital.

Café connoisseurs frown on the smoking, card-playing and seed-chewing that are so much a part of any proper Chinese tea-drinking occasion.

"Chinese don't understand coffee, so they avoid it, unlike tea, which is so much part of our tradition," said Summer Ji, public relations manager for another franchisee, Shanghai President Coffee, a tie-up between Luwan Tobacco, Sugar & Wine Co. and a subsidiary of Taiwan's Uni-President Enterprises.

Whatever the hurdles, they don't seem to discourage President and Mei Da, both of whom harbor bold ambitions to control 50 outlets each within two to three years.

Mei Da has watched its outlets balloon to 26 from nine in early 2000, and it aims to open a further eight stores in 2002.

President is also going on the offensive.

"This year, we want to spread the word," Ji told Reuters.

"We'll hold coffee classes at our outlets, and our managers can be teachers to customers who want to learn."

Reuters

City boy finds his fortune in the province

By Angelina G. Goloy

HEADING for the big city to seek one's fortune has become such a cliché that many pin their hopes on this course of action as though it were a sure-fire formula for success. One entrepreneur did the reverse and achieved the desired results just the same, proving that the big city doesn't have a monopoly of greener pastures.

Victorino "Vic" Z. Alcala left Manila, where he was born and educated, and made a fortune in the province—mind, not by planting *camote.* Vic owns the Republic Mart Home Appliances and Furniture stores in Bacolod, where he cast his lot back in the mid-1960s when it was not yet the modern city that it is today.

Then a service administrator into his third year at Concepcion Industries, Vic was assigned to preside over the closure of the Bacolod branch which had been losing, mainly due to accounting problems.

Ironically it was this grim task that led to bright prospects.

"You'll be miserable there—no housing, no buildings except PNB, no nightlife," friends had warned him, feeding his fears.

But like a good soldier he followed orders, consoling himself with the thought that the stint would only be temporary.

A product of La Salle and the University of the East with a degree in business administration, Vic had previously worked at DRB Marketing, Manufacturers Bank, and the Post Office.

With enough experience in running a business, he found the Bacolod assignment a cinch (save for the part where he had to fire the employees). "I did the job so well, I was able to collect even debts written off by the company," he said.

Impressed, his bosses in Manila gave him two months' Christmas bonus that year and an offer to take over the branch.

"But who wants to take over a losing firm?" he said, wondering if he might not end up holding an empty bag. At the same time, he spotted the challenge. He accepted the offer, but on condition that if he didn't succeed, he'd be absorbed by the head office.

His bosses agreed to supply goods on consignment and appoint him as service dealer. In return he remitted payments to Manila promptly, further earning the trust and confidence of the management.

The consignment arrangement went on for a while until he was allowed to place orders on installment terms. "I think the free service and warranty were what attracted customers," he said.

Gradually, Vic became convinced he had made the right move. "For one thing, in Bacolod I was far away from trouble," he said, recalling his carefree bachelor days in Manila.

No one was happier with that than his wife, the former Cloty de Leon. Thinking that Bacolod might indeed be a good place to raise a family, she posed no objections to relocating. Later as store manager, she proved to be Vic's ace, a life partner in every sense of the word.

REPUBLIC MART
SPECIALISTS CENTRE

VIC and Cloty Alcala.

ALCALA's daughter Mayette (seated) with niece.

In 1974, Vic was completely on his own, opening Republic Mart at Luzurriaga Street in a busy commercial section of the city. Soon after, at the height of the oil crisis, he decided to diversify.

"I figured, I'd be limiting my resources if I stuck only to air conditioners, which had become a dispensable luxury due to the hard times," he said. (Concepcion manufactured Carrier air conditioners, Motorola TV sets, and Whirlpool refrigerators.)

Today, Republic Mart sells everything a home would ever need, from big and small electric appliances and furniture to pots and pans and flower vases. It also has a much bigger branch, housed in a building the Alcalas put up in 1997 as another business venture.

The four-story Northpoint Bldg. facing Colegio San Agustin along BS Aquino Drive houses, besides a bank, mostly clinics of doctors the Alcalas have befriended in the course of their civic work. The top floor is a pavilion which can be rented for parties.

With Vic's business success came community recognition. A member of the Mt. Kanlaon Lions Club and Toastmasters, he is currently a director of the Metro Bacolod Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Vic so loves this city, which has been good to him, he enjoys showing around visiting relatives and friends. He even convinced an older brother, the cartoonist Larry Alcala, to make it his home too.

"Entrepreneurship has remained basically the same. There's no substitute for hard work," Vic said, sharing his "ABC" of success: ability, breaks, courage. "Only the technology has changed, along with the price tags," he continued.

Observed Cloty: "When we were starting, for example, the TV was a luxury. Today no home is without it." Since color TV hit Philippine stores, it has remained the all-time bestselling home appliance, rendering the black-and-white units obsolete, she said. The same with the karaoke, which has been supplanted by the videoke.

Cloty now manages the new branch, passing on the main store to son Edgar. The older son, Augustus, is into furniture design. Only daughter Mayette, who used to be her mother's assistant, is now married (to Elias Micael) and lives in Manila.

Now in his early '70s, Vic describes himself as "a one-thousand-peso-a-month house husband," having retired when he turned 65. While Cloty minds the store, he keeps himself occupied at home, cooking, tending the garden, watching a string of videos or puttering around like a fulltime handyman. Why, he once repainted the living room and den.

Occasionally he's asked to give a talk. "Be honest and dedicated for these are always rewarded," he advises employees. Vic himself lives by the dictum of Kunosuke Matsushita, founder of the Japanese electrical giant: "I believe, every individual should have a clear sense of what he or she is living for. I hate to see workers doing just what they are told to do. A worker who feels responsible for his or her job is also blessed with a sense of fulfillment."

His memorabilia includes a ledger of air conditioners his store serviced and a 1966 letter from Jose Concepcion Sr. commending him for "a good job in Bacolod."

Years ago Vic's head was constantly swimming with business ideas. "I once thought of opening a food store, selling *pan de sal* with *longganisa* filling, served with hot native chocolate," he recalled.

Would he have been as successful if he had pursued the idea? He could muse on it for the rest of his retirement—but definitely with nary a regret about the way things turned out.

> 'Be honest, dedicated, these are always rewarded'

Low prices, creative ads boost clothing shop's sales

THE LINEA Italia Group (LIG) projects continued growth this year with expansion plans underway in key cities in the country.

"The economic uncertainty notwithstanding, Linea Italia registered one of its highest sales last year," LIG chair Freddy Panicucci says.

The head of the country's largest Italian fashion chain also reports that its two new Corso Marconi outlets in Cebu and Bacolod are doing exceptionally well. "The Cebu branch had an average of 500 shoppers coming in every day last December. The Bacolod branch also surpassed its target sales last year."

Panicucci attributes the success of LIG to the support given by Italian suppliers, creative marketing strategies and the company's hardworking staff. "We are very grateful for the support of our Italian suppliers who continue to give us the best deals. Our Fashion Rebellion and Price War promotions were also highly successful. It only goes to show that what people want nowadays is a good deal and that's what we will continue to give them through our pocket-friendly quality items. Our success in the past year boosts our confidence about the future," Panicucci says.

Meanwhile, the company will open their latest Prima Linea shop in the new Greenbelt Mall soon. "It's going to be very different from our other shops in terms of design. We have given our Italian architects Desolina Mori and Lorenzo Ferretti Garsi the freedom to play with styles and colors. They have come up with unique cutting-edge interiors," Panicucci remarks.

The new Prima Linea shop has Basilica-like interiors, with colorful murals adorning its handmade wooden walls and chandeliered dome. It will occupy 308 square meters of space, carrying the widest and latest collections from Italy's top fashion houses.

Panicucci also divulges that plans are afoot to set up more Corso Marconi branches outside Metro Manila.

"As Linea Italia enters its 20th year in the business, we are getting closer to our goal of turning the country into the fashion capital of Asia. Fashion is giving the Filipino consumer affordability and wide selection and Linea Italia will continue to do that," says Panicucci, who has always emphasized the importance of empowering the peso and the consumer as a means of spurring economic growth.

Linea Italia's shops include Linea Italia 6750 in Ayala Avenue, Makati City; Versace Jeans Couture in Greenbelt; Prima Linea in Greenbelt, SM Megamall, and Ayala Center Cebu; Linea Italia in SM Megamall and Ayala Center Cebu; Linea Uomo in SM Megamall, SM Cebu, and Park Square I, Uomo Tu in Greenbelt and Ayala Center Ayala Center Cebu, and Viva in SM Megamall and SM Cebu. Corso Marconi, its premieres Italian fashion stockhouse, has branches at Marconi con Morse Streets, Makati City (main branch); Festival Supermall Alabang; Robinsons Galleria; SM Manila; Cebu; and Bacolod.

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(AIM, Makati City)
School Year 2002-2003

FEBRUARY 16, 2002
MARCH 9, 2002
MARCH 23, 2002
APRIL 27, 2002

TEST CENTERS

BACOLOD: Ms. Ma. Socorro A. Flaminialagoo
Testing Officer, Guidance Center
University of St. La Salle
Tel. No.: (34) 23262
E-mail: admit@usls.edu.ph

BAGUIO CITY: Ms. Angelita A. Padilla
Guidance Director, Baguio Colleges Foundation
Tel. No.: (74) 4422564

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY: Ms. Flordeliza A. Velaz
Testing Officer, Xavier University – Ateneo de Cagayan
Tel. No.: (88) 8583116 / (8822) 723116 loc. 2054 / 2064

CEBU CITY: Mrs. Remedios A. Baculao
Psychometrician, Testing Center
University of San Carlos
Telefax no.: (32) 2531000 loc. 181
E-mail: testing@ouvs.usc.edu.ph

DAVAO CITY: Ms. Paulita C. Sarongon
Guidance Counselor, Ateneo de Davao University
Tel. No.: (82) 2212411 loc. 8309
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DUMAGUETE CITY: Ms. Violeta H. Teves
Psychometrician, Silliman University
Tel. No.: (35) 422-6002 loc. 337

ILOILO CITY: Dr. Fely David
Dean, Graduate School
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Telefax No.: (33) 3290418

LEGASPI CITY: Mr. Carlos Anto
Office of the Dean of Academic Affairs
Divine Word College
Tel. No.: (5521) 4515

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Director and Psychometrician
Institutional Testing Center-Ateneo de Naga
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Company: ____
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Mailing Address: ____
Tel / Fax: ____ E-mail: ____

Send mail/e-mail/ or fax reply form to:

Admissions Office
Asian Institute of Management
Joseph R. McMicking Campus
123 Paseo de Roxas
Makati City, Philippines

MCPO Box 2095
Trunklines (632) 8924011 to 25
Telefax: (632) 8937631
E-mail: admissions@aim.edu.ph
http://www.aim.edu.ph

HOW TO APPLY
1. Submit complete application form, original or certified true copy of transcript of records, accomplished recommendation forms and two (2) copies of recently taken passport-size picture to the Admissions Office.
2. Pay the testing fee of US$20.00 at the cashier.
3. Present your receipt and get your exam permit with assigned test date and venue from the Admissions Office.
4. Examination starts at 12:45 pm and ends at 5:00 pm.

Please bring the following on the test date: test permit, two (2) pencils, two (2) black ballpens and a scientific calculator.

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NATIONAL EDITION

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As Branch Head, you will be expected to establish a client base for the branch and will be responsible for supervising all branch marketing and related functions.

Qualifications

☑ at least 3 to 5 years experience as Branch Head or Senior Marketing Officer in a commercial or universal bank
☑ graduate of any business course
☑ must possess outstanding leadership, strategic thinking and people management skills
☑ fluent in verbal and written communication
☑ with pleasant and dynamic personality

BRANCH MARKETING OFFICERS

As Marketing Officer, you will be expected to establish a client base for the branch.

Qualifications

☑ at least 1 to 3 years experience as Marketing Officer or Associate in a commercial or universal bank
☑ graduate of any business course
☑ ambitious, hardworking, and with strong leadership potentials
☑ fluent in verbal and written communication
☑ with pleasant personality

HEAD, TREASURY SETTLEMENT OPERATIONS

As Head of Treasury Settlement, you will be responsible for the execution, documentation and booking of all treasury transactions, both domestic and foreign.

Qualifications

☑ not more than 45 years old
☑ graduate of any business course, preferably with accounting as a major field
☑ at least 5 to 7 years experience in treasury operations in a commercial bank
☑ must have attended relevant training/seminar in treasury and related operations
☑ hardworking, diligent, and systematic in his/her work

HEAD, MONEY TRANSFER UNIT

As Head of Money Market, you will be responsible for the processing of incoming and outgoing remittances/cable/communications, SWIFT System, PCHC/PDDTS System operation.

Qualifications

☑ not more than 40 years old
☑ graduate of any business course, preferably with accounting as a major field
☑ at least 3 years experience in fund transfer, SWIFT operations and PCHC/PDDTS system
☑ hardworking, diligent, and systematic in his/her work

BRANCH ACCOUNTANTS

As Branch Accountant, you will be responsible for recording and balancing the branch transactions, preparation and timely submission of internal/external reports and implementing internal control procedures.

Qualifications

☑ not more than 35 years old
☑ graduate of any business course, a CPA, or with accounting as a major field
☑ at least 2 years experience in the branch accounting/operations
☑ hardworking, analytical, and systematic in his/her work
☑ must be willing to travel/relocate

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

As Executive Secretary, you will be responsible for rendering administrative and secretarial support to the Office of the Chief Executive Officer of the Bank.

Qualifications

☑ female, preferably single, between 25 to 45 years old
☑ degree holder with high scholastic records
☑ computer literate
☑ with working knowledge in various bank operations
☑ fluent in verbal and written communication
☑ hardworking, diligent, and systematic in his/her work
☑ with pleasant and dynamic personality; at least 5'4 in height

Interested candidates should send their Resume, recent 2 x 2 photograph and official transcript of records to **HRMD, 18th floor, Salcedo Towers, 169 HV Dela Costa Street, Makati City.**

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107 L.P. Leviste St., Salcedo Village, Makati City
from 11th to 15th day of February 2002
10:30 AM to 5 PM

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February 11th & 12th - Final Interviews
IPAMS office in MANILA:
February 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 18th, & 19th

CHRISTUS Spohn Health System (CSHS) has been exploring new directions in health care in **South Texas** since **1905**. Today **CSHS** is the premier provider of family health centers, the CHRISTUS Spohn Cancer Center and Heart Institute, a Hospice program and Home Care Services. CSHS's services cover 12 counties with a total population of more than 850,000 residents.

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To take advantage of this opportunity, candidates must personally apply asap by submitting comprehensive resume, school records (diploma, transcript of records), board rating, training certificates, employment credentials plus two (2) passport photographs to:

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E-Mail: ipams_us@mydestiny.net / Fax: 521-1189 / Mobile No.: 0917-8919190 or 0918-9215891

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(1) ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

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Female, 21-26 years old; graduate of B.S. Accountancy; with at least 1 year experience in accounting works and familiar with all government remittances; computer literate.

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Male, 28-40 years old; college level or vocational course grad. of Industrial Electricity or Electronics or Mechanical; with expertise in repair, maintenance and trouble-shooting of printing machines (Press/Post-Press and Pre-Press hardwares); flexible with good analytical mind; willing to work overtime or during holidays.

Applicants may apply personally or send in/fax their resumé with 2x2 picture and transcript of records addressed to: HR Department at 2275 P. Burgos Street, Pasay City. Tel. No. 831-9668/7549 and Fax No. 831-2945

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Teaching experience is not necessary but is an advantage. Fresh graduates are welcome. Qualified applicants are requested to mail their resumé, 4 2x2 photos, photocopy of the transcript of records, service records (if available), certificate of good moral character and a letter of application addressed to:

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1068 Manila

Republic of the Philippines
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COMMUNITY-BASED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECT
CBRMP

The Community-Based Resource Management Project (CBRMP) of the Department of Finance is inviting applicants to fill in the following positions:

One (1) TECHNICAL ASSISTANT/ PROJECT SUPERVISION SPECIALIST

Rural Infrastructure Engineer (For Region VII)

Qualifications:
- Must be a licensed Civil Engineer
- Must have at least 3 years experience in the field of Rural Infrastructure projects preferably on vertical structures, roads and bridges, and water supply investigation, design and implementation
- Good grasp in Detailed Engineering activities and preparation of contract documents
- Must know how to deal with rural communities
- Must be able to speak and understand the local dialect or a resident of Central Visayas.

One (1) PROJECT SUPERVISION SPECIALIST

(For Region V)

Qualifications:
- Must be a graduate of Fisheries, Marine Biology or in any related field
- Must have at least 3 years experience in implementing natural resource management projects especially coastal areas
- Must possess the ability to work well with LGUs, communities and multi-disciplinary team of technical staff and experts
- With very good technical writing and communication skills
- Must be computer literate
- Must be able to speak and understand the local dialect or a resident of Region V.

One (1) PROJECT ACCOUNTANT

(For Central Office)

Qualifications:
- Must be a Certificated Public Accountant
- Must have at least 3 years experience in government accounting
- Must have at least 3 years experience in a foreign-assisted project
- Must be computer literate
- Must be of good moral character
- Must have good communication skills, both oral and written.

One (1) FINANCIAL ANALYST

(For Central Office)

Qualifications:
- Must hold a Bachelor's Degree in Accountancy or BSBA major in Accounting
- A Certified Public Accountant preferred, but not required
- With at least 3 years experience in government accounting preferably for local government units
- Must have at least 3 years experience in a foreign-assisted project
- Must have good communication skills, both oral and written
- Must possess the ability to work well with LGUs, communities and multi-disciplinary team of technical staff and experts
- Must have a relevant experience in financial statement analysis
- Must be computer literate.

Interested applicants may send their letter of application, resumé, transcript of records, complete reference information and 2x2 photo on or before **February 22, 2002** to:

The Project Director
Community Based Resource Management Project
c/o Municipal Development Fund Office
Podium Level, DOF Building
Roxas Blvd. cor. P. Ocampo Sr. St.
Malate, Manila

Join Lazurde Gold and Jewellery Team

The Company:

We are one of the world's leaders in gold jewellery manufacturing with facilities based in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia and branches Kingdom-wide and in the Gulf. Our key strength lies in our ability to keep a pulse on the market and respond quickly to changing trends through a creative base of talented designers and model-makers.

Jewellery Designer

The Person:

The ideal incumbent will be a person having proven experience in gold jewellery designing and/or creation. Formal education in jewellery designing would be an advantage, though not essential.

If selected, you will follow a 6-day FREE course on how to create unique ideas of jewellery with shells. The designs will then be transformed into models and cut in the Philippines market. The course will be held in Manila under the supervision of the Italian designer Mr. Franco Palazzini.

After the course, you will have the chance to work with Lazurde either in the Philippines or in the Group's headquarters.

The Compensation:

The Company offers an attractive remuneration package, which includes housing in the company's compound, annual vacation tickets, full medical coverage and performance incentives.

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Lazurde Gold & Jewellery (Jewellery Designer Application)
P.O. Box MN-2032, PDI Bldg. Chino Roces Ave.
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Knowledge in Adobe Photoshop, Freehand, and CorelDraw. Can produce high quality graphics and illustrations on the Mac or PC or both. Will be involved in the production of multimedia, web applications, electronic page layouts. Must have portfolio of high quality work samples. Send cover letter and resumé to:

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1265 Makati City

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NOTE: Telephone inquiries will NOT be entertained by AIM.

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Applicants must have the following qualifications:

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- ❖ Self-propelled, must be able to introduce new ideas on planning, systems etc. and has adequate working knowledge in an electronic environment
- ❖ Must be proficient in oral & written communication
- ❖ Resident of Pampanga, Bulacan or nearby places or willing to reside in Pampanga

Interested parties are requested to submit their comprehensive resumes, photocopy of transcript of records, recent 2X2 colored pictures and other pertinent credentials to:

THE HRD MANAGER
Human Resource Department
Carworld Bldg. San Fernando-Olongapo Hi-way
City of San Fernando (Pampanga)
(045) 963-48-51
Telefax (045) 961-56-18

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
DR. JOSE FABELLA MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
National Maternity Hospital
corner Lope de Vega St., Sta. Cruz, Manila
Telephone Nos. 734-55-61 to 65

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Dr. Jose Fabella Memorial Hospital invites interested accredited bidders/suppliers to pre-qualify and to bid for the following items:

	Submission of Pre-qualification Requirements	Issuance of Bid Documents	Pre-Bid Conference 2:00 p.m.	Public Bidding 2:00 p.m.
SERVICE CONTRACTS:				
I. RENTAL OF EQUIPMENT a. Hematology Analyzer b. Chemistry Analyzer c. Elisa Machine d. ABG Machine e. Ventilator Machine	Feb. 19, 20, 21	Feb. 25, 26, 27	March 4	March 8
II. BIOMEDICAL WASTE SERVICES	Feb. 19, 20, 21	Feb. 27-28	March 6	March 11

Pre-qualification requirements may be obtained from the DJFMH-PBEC Secretariat on February 13, 14 & 15, 2002.

All interested bidders are required to attend the Pre-Bid Conference on the above-stated schedule at the Reception Hall, DJFMH. Failure to attend the Pre-bid Conference will automatically disqualify participation in the bidding.

All bids must be accompanied by bid security equivalent to 2 1/2% of the total bid price but not to exceed Twenty Thousand Pesos (P20,000.00) which may be in the form of GSIS bond, cash, manager's check or, bank draft or guarantee against any reputable bank or any combination thereof.

The DJFMH-PBEC reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any required formality and award the contract to any bidder whose proposal, as evaluated, is the most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) MARIETA R. SIONGCO, M.D., CESO V
Chief, Medical Professional Staff II
Chairman, PBEC

(PDI--Feb. 9, 10 & 11, 2002)

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Songs in keys that prompt folks to buy, buy, buy

By Dennis D. Garcia

YOU wake up to the sound of your alarm clock (key of B), rush to grab your juice drink from the fridge which hums (at Bflat), jump into the office elevator that bleeps you to your destination (in C sharp), then get back home again on an MRT train which deposits you to your station whirring in the key of F.

Face it: Every minute of the day, you are under the spell of music and—chances are—you never even realized it.

For years, people in advertising have known the power of music. They have recognized how music works on our subconscious, punching sensitive buttons inside us and priming us to buy, buy, buy.

That is why, on a second-per-second basis, creating advertising music has become the most meticulously crafted and most fretted-about musical activity in history.

In the early days of the advertising business, this power was unleashed primarily in the form of jingles.

A jingle is an easy-to-hum short song that mentions the product's name and its attributes a million times (or so it seems) in 30 seconds.

Who could ever forget the immortal hit . . . *Gusto ko ng gatas ng Darigold . . . Darigold . . . Darigold . . .Gusto ko ng gatas ng Darigold . . . Darigold ang inyong bilhin?*

Or its direct descendant that went "YC Bikini Brief/YC Bikini Brief/YC Bikini Brief" repeated with the same frequency and fervor as the defense attorneys' "Objection, Your Honor" mantra during the Erap impeachment trials.

Jingles are great for brand recall but most of these 30-second tunes simply cannot build enduring relationships with their audience because the repetition can be irritating after a while.

What is even more irritating are our local politicians who are notorious for giving jingles a bad name (there were at least 100 terribly written, terribly recorded reworkings of "She Bang" during the last election; same number for "Let's Get Loud").

In fairness (as show biz folks would say), not all jingles are inane nor are they created exclusively for a target audience with an IQ of 25. Some that passed our way were genuinely touching.

We felt good all over each time we heard "I'd Like To Teach The World to Sing" which started out as a Coke jingle and became a Top 10 hit. It was also about this time that a jingle for a US bank, "We've Only Just Begun," crossed over to the No.1 position in Billboard.

By the early 1990s, jingles started to lose their luster. Consumers had sharpened their radars and simply switched off upon hearing the opening strains of a jingle. Jingles become as welcome and as appreciated as insurance salesmen.

To counter this, advertisers opted to use popular songs rather than commission original tunes for commercials.

Nike paid a bundle to use the Beatles' "Revolution." Bill Gates dipped into his petty cash to use the Rolling Stones' "Start Me Up" for Microsoft advertising. And on the local front, Smart became a thousand dollars poorer when it chose to use "Ain't No Mountain High Enough" for its commercials.

Suddenly, advertisers and their agencies aspired to reach loftier heights . . . making the music in commercials as entertaining as the stuff on CDs.

It was not the case of epiphany though, simply a matter of common sense. Popular songs used in advertising instantly and effortlessly evoke images of a certain decade, an era, a style, a generation—instant values communicated through a song but in a way unique to the commercial.

> What is irritating are our local politicians who are notorious for giving jingles a bad name

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News that makes a difference

RN76384

TIP Expands its Curriculum with Yapster e-Learning Courses

The Technological Institute of the Philippines (TIP) recently subscribed to at least 5,000 licenses for IT courses supplied by Yapster e-Learning, Inc. Beginning June 2002, TIP students in the Manila and Quezon City campuses will have access to online courses that contain basic to advanced IT learning materials.

Dr. Teresita Quirino, TIP's President, represented the educational institution in formalizing a three-year contract whereby Yapster e-Learning will deliver 5,000 International Computer Driving Licenses (ICDL) for use by TIP students. The ICDL is one of Yapster e-Learning's more popular courses. It contains lessons on basic computer operations, and extends all the way to word processing, preparing spreadsheets and presentations, and using the World Wide Web. For more advanced learners, a series of certification preparation programs such as Web Authoring, Web Programming, Internet Technologies, and a few others are also included. TIP has also arranged for the inclusion into the courseware of internationally accredited vendor specific certification courses from Microsoft, IBM, Netscape, Novell, and Lotus Notes to cater to students who are really interested in these courses.

"Offering e-Learning courses was the obvious next step towards furthering our mission to provide a high standard of relevant and well-rounded education," Dr. Quirino states. TIP recognizes the important role technology plays in the New Global Economy and has therefore restructured its curriculum for June 2002 to reflect this. A fusion of technology and traditional education, TIP's enhanced curriculum aims to make all students computer proficient no matter what course they enroll in.

"To make our enhanced curriculum work for our students, it is critical for us to be abreast with the latest and most advanced IT programs and methods of instruction. With Yapster e-Learning, this is made easier. Yapster e-Learning is really a great aid in achieving the school's thrust. I am excited for the opening of school year 2002!" Dr. Quirino concludes.

Yapster e-Learning has a growing library of over 1,200 courses, at least 50% of which are on IT. Yapster e-Learning's complete library of Business and IT courses can be viewed at www.2studyIT.com. Yapster e-Learning also features a highly engaging course design that has been proven by WR Hambrecht + Co. to increase retention rates by as much as 50-60%, at the same time speed up the learning curve by 50%.

TECHNOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF THE PHILIPPINES
TIP
FOUNDED 1962 MANILA

On the occasion of its 40
the Technological Institute of the

A fusion of technology and traditional education. The willingness to evolve in the face of ne
An institution that imbues its students with Filipino va
An institution that transforms students into graduates

Flame: The passion to educate, to excel, and to provide quality education.

Book: The traditional source of knowledge

TIP In constant re

MANILA CAMPUSES: 363 P, Casal St., Quiapo, Manila Tels. 733-9117 / 734-3642 • 1338 Arlegui St., Quiapo, Manila QUEZON CITY CAMPUS: 938 Aurora Blvd., Cu

Energy company ads quietly proclaim, 'We're not Enron'

NEW YORK—Before its downfall, energy giant Enron Corp. trumpeted its New Economy-style creativity in slick television ads that concluded with the line: "It's how we're changing the way industries think."

Without a doubt, Enron Corp. changed the way the energy industry thinks: Companies are turning themselves inside out to distance themselves from the now-bankrupt energy trading company.

Fearful of being put in a guilt-by-association category, other energy companies are taking drastic measures to clean up their balance sheets and reassure investors about their accounting practices and risk-handling procedures.

Some are now taking pains to buff their public images. After a period when they reined in their advertising— amid confusion over quite what profile to present in the wake of the Enron collapse—a handful of companies are using the media to retool their images.

Never mind the information age, New Economy glitz that Enron used to dazzle investors during its meteoric rise. The new breed of advertising clearly shows energy companies are reverting to type as conservative and reliable entities, after some attempted only last year to jazz up their old-economy images.

"There has been a shift back toward reliability from adventurism," said John Lister of brand consultant Lister Butler Consulting.

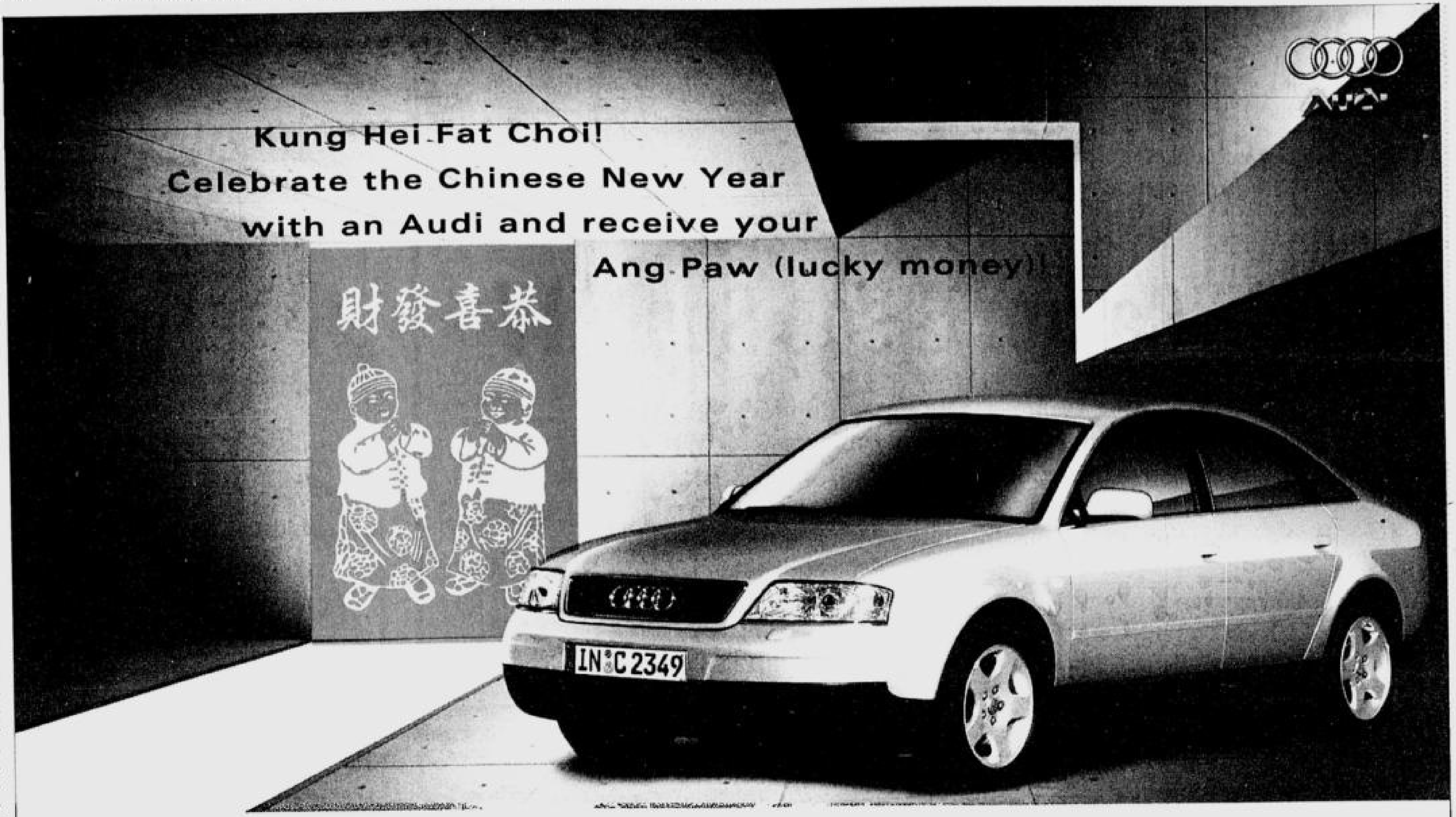
"It's a sign of the times in one way. Enron has sort of contributed to the whole energy sector taking a more conservative stance," he said.

One company, Dynegy Inc., deeply intertwined with Enron last year as it made a later-abandoned $9 billion bid for Enron last November, launched in mid-January a series of ads in newspapers like The Wall Street Journal and The New York Times, featuring mid-level executives exuberantly talking about their work, using a question-and-answer format.

Many analysts believe the ads, aimed at investors and government leaders alike, are a bid by Dynegy to overcome its association with Enron. But a company spokesperson said that's not the case. He said the ads, part of a campaign launched late last year, are meant to address "timely" issues, such as how the energy industry works and supports its customer's needs.

Dynegy will spend $8 million on advertising in 2002, slightly more than last year, he added.

Historically, advertising by power companies has been dominated by local utilities responsible for delivering power to households and businesses. **Reuters**



It's not everyday that you experience a lucky streak. Get an Audi A4, A6 or TT and we'll give you an Ang Paw worth P200,000 to P400,000!
It's not your usual New Year Promo. Because it's the extraordinary Audi. This is a limited offer only. Good until February 28, 2002.

Audi Model	Price	ANG PAW Lucky Money
A4 1.8 Automatic	P 1,794,000	P 200,000
A4 1.8 Turbo Tiptronic	2,104,500	200,000
A6 2.4 Tiptronic	3,075,000	300,000
A6 2.4 Tiptronic Quattro	3,438,500	300,000
TT Coupe 1.8 180 bhp	3,105,000	400,000
TT Coupe Quattro 1.8 225 bhp	3,427,000	400,000

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TIP Celebrates 40th Foundation Anniversary

The Technological Institute of the Philippines (TIP) will be celebrating its 40th Foundation Day and its Founder's 77th birthday from Monday, February 04, 2002 to Saturday, February 09, 2002. The weeklong celebration will have for its theme "TIP at 40: In Constant Redefinition of Academic Life."

One of the highlights of the celebration is the Founder's Night with the Employees on Friday, February 8, 2002 at the TIP-Manila campus. The night's program includes the TIP Employee Service Awards, and the presentation of The Plaque of Appreciation and Recognition to the TIP Founder and Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Dr. Demetrio A. Quirino, Jr.

Another highlight is the TIP Alumni Night, where Ruby Awards to outstanding TIP Alumni will be given out. The TIP Alumni Night will be held on Saturday, February 9, 2002, at the Century Park Hotel, Manila.

Other activities at TIP during the week include the Anniversary Mass, student exhibitions and booths, sports fests and a cheering competition, PE and martial arts demonstrations, and student awards.

There will also be a Battle of the Bands, and the selection of Mr. and Ms. TIP. To add to this, there will also be student-organized concerts featuring South Border back to back with Rivermaya on February 5, 2002 at TIP-Quezon City, and Parokya ni Edgar on February 7, 2002 at TIP Manila.

The traditional bloodletting activities in honor of the Founder will likewise be carried out on February 6 and 7 in TIP-Manila and TIP-Quezon City respectively.

TECHNOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF THE PHILIPPINES
TIP
FOUNDED 1962 MANILA

th Founding Anniversary,
Philippines unveils its new logo:

w challenges, while maintaining the same passion and steadfastness that build an institution.
lues, industry-desired values and global citizen values.
who will contribute to the general welfare of society.

Laptop computer:
Innovativeness. Technology-based.
Up-to-date facilities.

Triangle: Stability.
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"Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."
Matthew 11:28

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."
John 3:16

Arch. Castor Sison Surla IV

President - Architectural Center Club Inc. - ACCI
Former Director - Bureau of Buildings - MPWH
Former Executive Director - MMC - ACID
Former Director - Special Buildings PMO-DPWH
Fellow-Philippine Institute of Architecture - PIA

His bereaved and beloved Family daughter; **Kristine R.**; sons **Giancarlo R.**, **Juan Paolo R.**, **Christian S.**, **John Castor S.**, and their mothers **Leticia "Ting" R.**, and **Jenny S.**; sisters **Myrna**, **Erlinda** and **Corlyn**; brothers **Marcelino**, **Eddie**, **Gerry**, **Albert** and **Rojan**; aunties, in-laws, nephews, nieces, cousins and other relatives and friends mourn his passing and wish his eternal rest.

His remains lie in state at Fr. Willmann Suite Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, Sucat Road, Parañaque City.

Interment will be at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City on Wednesday, February 13, 2002 after the 1:30 PM Mass at Fr. Willmann Suite, Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, Sucat Road, Parañaque City.

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

HERMAN VILLADOR SEECHUNG

who joined our Creator on February 4, 2002

convey our sincerest thanks to all those who condoled with us, offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers and messages of sympathy, went to the wake and kept vigil, and stayed with us in unknown ways in the hour of our bereavement.

Daisy Ocampo-Seechung and Family

We Remember Lovingly And Dearly

ISIDRO "Roy" HOJAS ESCAÑO

of Cagayan de Oro City

ON HIS 20TH DEATH ANNIVERSARY
on February 10, 2002

Masses will be offered today, Sunday, February 10, 2002
at the following churches:

GREENHILLS MEMORIAL PARK, Bulua	4:00 p.m.
SAN VICENTE FERRER, Cugman	6:00 a.m.
SAN ISIDRO LABRADOR, Gusa	6:00 a.m.
JESUS NAZARENO PARISH, Recto Avenue	5:30 a.m.
OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH, Camaman-an	6:00 a.m.
OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL PARISH, Carmen	6:00 a.m.
ST. AUGUSTINE CATHEDRAL, Cagayan de Oro	5:30 p.m.
SAN ANTONIO PARISH, Nazareth	6:00 a.m.
SANTO NIÑO PARISH, Cogon	6:00 a.m.
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, Bulua	6:00 a.m.
CARMELITE MONASTERY CHAPEL, Camaman-an	6:00 a.m.
CARMELITE MONASTERY CHAPEL, Bukidnon	6:30 a.m.

We, his relatives, request the friends and pious reader to join us in prayer for the eternal repose of his soul.

Our Dearly Beloved

GLORIA JARMONILLA LIBRE

Peacefully joined our Lord on February 8, 2002 at the age of 74.

Her late husband **Felicisimo D. Libre** (†); loving children and in-laws **Lincoln** & **Amorfina**, **Homer** & **Imelda**, **Rizal** & **Carmelina**, **Alan** & **Eva**, **Zerik** & **Marilyn** and **Raul**; grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Interment will be at Toboso, Negros Occidental.

In Loving Memory of

Col. Teodorico P. Sanchez, Sr. (Ret.) USMA '54

who joined his Creator on January 26, 2002 at the age of 72.

We, his family, beloved wife **Elvie**; children and in-laws **Beth**, **Jun** and **Sansan Ray** and **Arlene**, **Jocelyn** and **Luke**, **Rose** and **John**, **Cel**, **Edmond**, **JJ**, and **Mawel**; grandchildren **Abi**, **Ringo**, **Justin**, **Earl**, **Avie**, **Nina**, **Andie**, **Ryan** and **Joshua**; sincerely express our heartfelt gratitude to all those who paid their last respects and grieved us; offered Masses and prayers; gave generous contributions; sent food, drinks, flowers and messages of sympathy; visited and kept vigil; attended the necrological services and interment; and who in one way or another assisted and condoled with us and showed care and conern in our time of bereavement.

Please join us in praying for his eternal happiness and rest.

Thank you very much and God bless!

"And when our work is done, Our course on earth is run,
May it be said, Well done; Be thou at peace."
— P.S. Reinecke, USMA '11

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

CAPT. ISABELO PANTANGCO LIM

Wish to express our deepest appreciation to all of you who sent flowers, mass cards, letters of sympathy, spent precious time with us, and expressed in many other ways your love, concern, and support during our time of greatest sorrow.

We, the sisters, brothers, nephews and nieces, and other relatives of the late

RIZAL VIRATA FAYLONA

who joined his Creator on January 24, 2002

sincerely convey our heartfelt gratitude to all those who paid their last respects, grieved with us, offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers and messages of sympathy, visited and kept vigil, attended the funeral rites or who in one way or another condoled with us and showed love and concern in our time of bereavement.

Thank you very much. God Bless.

I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.
John 14:6

We, the family of the late

EPIFANIA M. LIWANAG

wishes to express our gratitude to all those who sent flowers, offered prayers.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.
Always caring... **INQUIRER OBITUARIES**

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Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City
Telephone Nos. +632 9265233; +632 4333446
Telefax Nos. +632 9265234; +632 4333444

INVITATION FOR QUALIFICATION AND BID

The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of this loan to eligible payment under the contract for which this Invitation for qualification and Bid is issued.

The Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission-Project Management Office (PRRC-PMO) is inviting all CONTRACTORS to apply for Qualification and Bid for the following project:

Name of Project : Pasig River Linear Park Package
Duration : 120 Calendar Days

Contract Package	Area	Location	Project Description
a. San Agustin Linear Park	3,645.00 m²	San Agustin St. near Carlos Palanca St. (between Ayala Bridge and Quezon Bridge), Manila	Community Park and Promenade
b. Quinta Market Linear Park	2,500.00 m2	Basan St. near Carlos Palanca St. (underneath Quezon Bridge) Quiapo, Manila	Community Park and Promenade
c. Sta. Ana Market Linear Park	1,504.60 m2	near Plaza Felipe Calderon, Sta. Ana, Manila	Community Park and Promenade

Interested bidders will be required to submit their accomplished qualification documents and bid proposals at the same time in two (2) separate sealed envelopes. The envelope containing the bid will be kept in a sealed box which will not be opened until after the completion of the qualification evaluation and the list of the qualified bidder has been finalized. Only the bids of qualified bidders will be opened on the date of bid opening. The bids of disqualified bidders will be returned unopened.

Interested eligible contractors may obtain further information and secure the qualification and bid documents at the following address:

Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission
Project Management Office (PRRC-PMO)
2nd Floor Engineering Building
MWSS CMPD., Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City
Telephone Nos. 433-3444 / 433-3446 / 926-5233 / 926-5234

A complete set of qualification and bid documents may be purchased by any interested eligible bidder from the above address starting **6-13 February 2002** upon submission of a letter of intent and payment of a non-refundable fee of Seven Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (Php 7,500.00).

Site Inspection and Pre-Bid Conference is on **20 February 2002**, 10:00 a.m. at the 4th Floor Department Of Tourism (DOT) Auditorium, DOT Building, T.M. Kalaw, Manila. The accomplished qualification documents and the bid in two (2) separate sealed envelopes must be submitted to the PRRC-PMO on or before 1200 hours on **20 March 2002**. The date of bid opening will be announced later.

The bidders shall submit together with qualification documents a notarized sworn statement stating their project workload as of date of bidding, including newly awarded but not yet started contracts with corresponding contract amount.

All particulars relative to Prequalification, Bid Evaluation and Award of Contract shall be governed by the ADB Procurement Guidelines and other pertinent laws and regulations. The PRRC-BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive minor informalities, or accept such bids which will be the most advantageous to the government. The decision of PRRC-BAC is final and binding.

(Sgd.) **BINGLE H.B. GUTIERREZ**
Executive Director

(PDI - Feb. 2, 3 & 10, 2002)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS
NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
BIR Road, East Triangle, Diliman, Quezon City

As a transitory measure and so as to promote public awareness, we are issuing this NOTICE.

Pursuant to the Memorandum of Agreement entered into between the NTC and CMTS carriers, the International Mobile Equipment Identification (IMEI) Numbers of any GSM handset that is reported stolen, may now be blocked by the CMTS carriers upon order by the NTC, subject to the submission of some documents.

The following cellphone units, with the corresponding IMEIs and SIM Card Numbers have been reported stolen and/or lost. The respective complainants have executed an Affidavit of Ownership and Loss over the cellphone units concerned:

IMEI	Cell Phone Number	IMEI	Cell Phone Number	IMEI	Cell Phone Number
350102303387765	9163051766	350001151026527	9172407989	350006307662877	9163593488/9198268206
449148103002412	9195845404	449341102345755	9174183290	350603304687103	9172553482
350144300124403	9207534003	448896806632874	9192273798	350603309469515	9172441553
448901105602782	-	448955083111570	9192273661	350139604247736	9198558020
520030713820197	9195665672	449306100595339		350001151026527	9172407989
449306102095239	9172045366	350103300743885		449341102345755	9174183290
449148107184299	9174224594	350102303387765	9163051766	448896806632874	9192273798
449173185550328	9173683152	449148103002412	9195845404	448955083111570	9192273661
350103303717902	9198680427	350144300124403	9207534003	449306100595339	
350101309249623	9192513441	448901105602782	-	350103300743885	
350137804376503	9172574698	520030713820197	9195665672	350103309203501	9198880586
449214203306887	-	449306102095239	9172045366	350138302208271	-
490550305109820	-	449148107184299	9174224594	350144301151793	9164804231
350144300518240	9172713761	449173185550328	9173683152	449340301088018	9177503239
	9195834495	350103303717902	9198680427	350006405976500	9172794265
350139305065437	9187933916	350101309249623	9192513441	350144305006001	9195330967
350139300394923	9193868156	350137804376503	9172574698	449311308573484	9194544440
		449214203306887	-	350604100744155	9177574582
350102303387765	9163051766	490550305109820	-	449214600567362	9179973221
449148103002412	9195845404	350144300518240	9172713761	449312302825706	9192061519
350144300124403	9207534003		9195834495	350139604402539	9194809786
448901105602782	-	350139305065437	9187933916	350104601368042	9185519040
520030713820197	9195665672	350139300394923	9193868156	350104301163347	9174684431
449306102095239	9172045366	350102303387765	9163051766	449309106393626	9173709040
449148107184299	9174224594	449148103002412	9195845404	350144301107027	9185509007
449173185550328	9173683152	360144300124403	9207534003	350144306606080	9194819824
350103303717902	9198680427	448901105602782	-	448895601027074	9174713946
350101309249623	9192513441	520030713820197	9195665672	350115105514493	9164363075
350137804376503	9172574698	449306102095239	9172045366	350102305621450	9194772161
449214203306887	-	449148107184299	9174224594	350144306166457	-
490550305109820	-	449173185550328	9173683152	449306308905660	9195689772
350144300518240	9172713761	350103303717902	9198680427	350104604313011	9185664935
	9195834495	350101309249623	9192513441	350104603281946	9192377522
350139305065437	9187933916	350137804376503	9172574698	449340304851727	9207502614
350139300394923	9193868156	449214203306887	-	350144307290066	9202063394
449207300350642	9173851947	490550305109820	-	350101306439037	9196085773
350104309117923	9193879505	350144300518240	9172713761	350139603429939	9185576908
350005309830896	9194625264		9195834495	350139305109110	9163981051
350101309269522	9176040541	350139305065437	9187933916	350007309091016	9163844944
447255301496668	9168242679	350139300394923	9193868156	350102100940964	9192229362
332198342145340	9195392149			350102305520512	9198955231
350104304920024	9173885070	350104309117923	9193879505	350105800365846	9174063933
350007301819224	9183351550	350005309830896	9194625264	449312604964484	9174339546
350006307662877	9163593488/9198268206	350101309269522	9176040541	350139309445536	9172792292
350603304687103	9172553482	447255301496668	9168242679	332135537709316	9197404591
350603309469515	9172441553	332198342145340	9195392149	449201206891015	9198426501
350139604247736	9198558020	350104304920024	9173885070	448835104368963	9193477618
		350007301819224	9183351550	449311605516160	9198325232

In the spirit of fairness, all those who are in possession of these alleged stolen cellphone units are given an opportunity to challenge the complaints/reports filed before NTC by presenting their case and/or filing a complaint and bring with them the subject cellphone unit, on or before 28 February 2002, at the NTC Central Office, BIR Road, East Triangle, Diliman, Quezon City.

The public is hereby warned to purchase their cellphones only from the GSM operators, duly accredited CPE suppliers/dealers to ensure that they acquire their cellphones only from legal sources. Demand for an official receipt.

DON'T BE THE SECOND VICTIM. WHAT YOU THOUGHT WAS A BIG BARGAIN MAY REALLY TURN OUT TO BE THROWING YOUR MONEY AWAY. BE INFORMED THAT ONCE A CELLPHONE UNIT IS BLOCKED, ONLY THE RIGHTFUL OWNER CAN REQUEST NTC FOR ITS UNBLOCKING.

(PDI - Feb. 10, 2002)

VALLEY GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB, INC.

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION TO BID

All parties interested to bid for the up-grading of the 18-hole South Course, VALLEY GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB, INC. (VGCCI), Antipolo City either as project manager/ contractor are invited to pre-qualify with the Technical Committee, VGCCI. Only pre-qualified contractors/ construction managers shall be invited to participate in the forthcoming bidding.

Pre-qualification documents are available for issuance to prospective bidders beginning **February 11, 2002** at VGCCI, Antipolo City and payment of a non-refundable fee of FIVE HUNDRED PESOS (P500.00) per set.

Contract Person : Judy Suarez

Telephone no. : 6584901 to 03 / 6580079

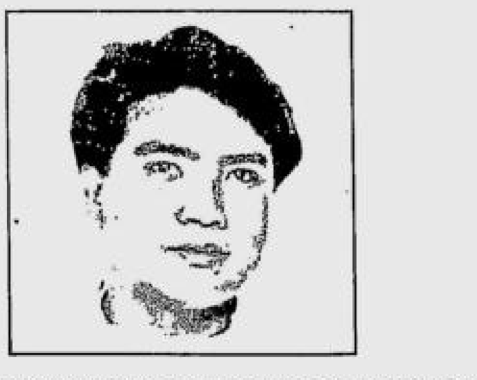
Closing date for receipt by the Technical Committe, VGCCI of the duly accomplished Pre-qualification Documents will be on **February 25, 2002**.

VALLEY GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB, INC.

(Sgd.) **MARIANO N. CANILAO, JR.**
General Manager

(PDI--Feb. 10, 2002)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



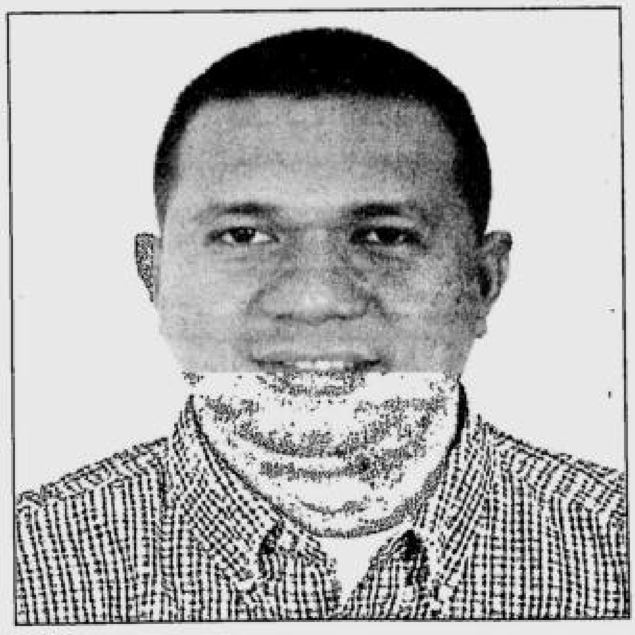
THE PUBLIC IS HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT **BERNARD G. MIRTO**, whose picture appears above, of Kalibo, Aklan, or Tuguegarao, Cagayan, is the subject of a **WARRANT OF ARREST** issued by the Presiding Judge of Branch No. 5, Regional Trial Court of Tuguegarao, Cagayan, in connection with the case of Qualified Theft with **"NO BAIL"** docketed as Criminal Case Number 9034.

A SUBSTANTIAL REWARD awaits anyone who shall provide material and vital information that will lead to the arrest of the subject person. Any information leading to his arrest may be communicated to the following numbers: **Toll Free Numbers (PLDT) 1-800-1888-13-68.**

Any and all information leading to the arrest of Bernard G. Mirto, including the informant's identity and contact number shall be treated with utmost confidentiality and privacy.

(PDI -- Feb. 10, 2002)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



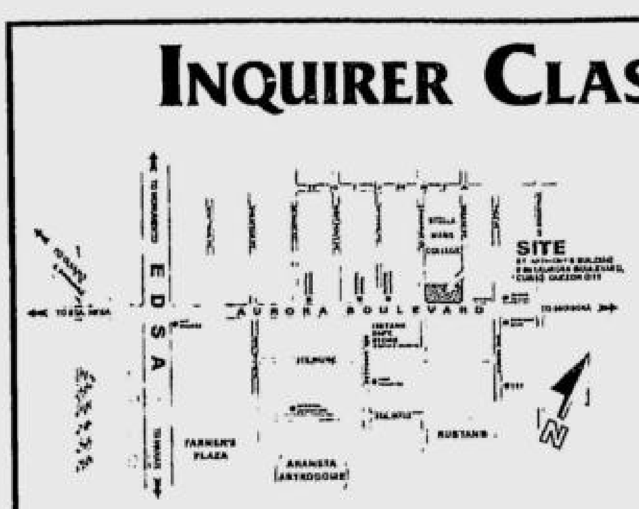
Please be informed that, **MR. EDGAR M. FIGER**, whose picture appears above, has ceased to be the President of **Five Vision Consultancy, Inc.** effective February 1, 2002.

Any **transactions which he may have entered into from February 1, 2002** in his capacity as a President, in behalf of Five Vision Consultancy, Inc. **will not be honored by the said company.**

Bruce P. Resurreccion
VP International Affairs
VP Internal Operations
Five Vision Consultancy, Inc.

(PDI - Feb 10. 2002)

INQUIRER CLASSIFIEDS



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BULACAN

1 Res'l Bldg. -2strv/(1)BL(3)CR /Lot 3 Blk 3/w/garage San Lucas St., Rio Vista Subd., Sabang, Baliuag Bul. LA 240 FA 193.20 Min. Bid - P 1,395,500.00

2 Res.'l H&L-3BR Lot 6,7,25,33,41,51 Blk 1, Camella Homes, Bo. Baliuag, Bulacan LA 744 Min. Bid - P 1,767,000.00

3 Res.'l H&L- 4strv w/ grge #11 Wakes, Caingin, Bulacan LA 378 FA 751 Min. Bid - P 4,011,000.00

4 Res.'l H&L-2strv./Lot 6 Blk 9 Bo. Malungao, Bulacan, Bul. LA 658 / FA 466.96 Min. Bid - P2,231,000.00

5 Res'l H&L- 2BR,1CR Poblacion, Bustos, Bulacan LA 241 / FA 276 Min. Bid - P1,127,500.00

6 Res'l Lot-Lot 19 Blk 6 /Vcnt Diamond Ville, Canlogan Calumpit, Bulacan LA - 100 Min. Bid - P 180,000.00

7 Res'l Lot-Lot 15 Blk 6 /Vcnt Diamond Ville, Canlogan Calumpit, Bulacan LA - 100 Min. Bid - P 180,000.00

8 Res'l Lot-Lot 14 Blk 6 /Vcnt Diamond Ville, Canlogan Calumpit, Bulacan LA - 100 Min. Bid - P180,000.00

9 Res'l Lot-Lot 13 Blk 6 /Vcnt Diamond Ville, Canlogan Calumpit, Bulacan LA - 100 Min. Bid - P 180,000.00

10 Res'l H&L-2strv/Lot5 Blk3 Maunlad Homes, Sta. Rita Guiguinto, Bulacan LA - 132 / FA 220 Min. Bid - P 716,000.00

11Res'l Lot-w/whse Lot23 Blk4 Masagana Subd Sta. Rita Guiguinto, LA-840 Min. Bid - P 1,260,000.00

12Res'l Lot - w/ Whse Lot 27&28, Blk 5 Masagana Subd., Sta. Rita Guiguinto, Bulacan LA 532 Min. Bid - 798,000.00

13Res'l Lot-Vcnt San Pascual Hagonoy, Bul. LA -747 Min. Bid - P 498,500.00

14Res'l H&L-Lot 598-F-3 Contreras Subd., Bo. San Agustin, Hag., Bul. LA 213 Min. Bid - P 1,086,000.00

15Res'l Lot-Lot 980-B/ (LRC) Hipolito St., Caingin, Malolos Bulacan LA 325 Min. Bid - P 772,000.00

16Res'l Lot-Lot 8591,1923,109/ Brgy. Sta. Isabel, Malolos LA 10,578 Min. Bid - P 12,968,000.00

17Res'l Lot-Lot24Blk10 Uranus St.,Felicisima Subd, Mojon Malolos,Bulacan LA 240 Min. Bid - P 456,000.00

18Res'l H&L- (1)strv Tikay, Malolos,Bulacan LA 473 / FA 175 Min. Bid - P 814,000.00

19Res'l Lot-Vcnt / Everlasting St., Town&Country North, Marilao Bulacan LA 304 Min. Bid - P 821,000.00

20Res'l H&L- (3)strv Lot 12-B-7-E, Lot 12-B-7-F Mabe Comp., Ibayo,Marilao Bul. LA 450 FA 368.50 Min. Bid - P 3,267,000.00

21Res'l H&L- Lot 20 Blk 7-A w/grge,terrace 13 Poseidon St.,St.Michael Subd.,Lias, Marilao, Bulacan LA 186 / FA 232 Min. Bid - P 1,670,000.00

22Res'l Lot - Lot2, Lot8Blk3 Metrogate Bulacan LA 12,319 Min. Bid - P 9,410,000.00

23Res'l Lot-Lot 40,392/Vcnt Zamora St., Poblacion Meycauayan,Bul. LA 432 Min. Bid - P 3,382,000.00

24(2)Res'l Lot-Lot [illegible]9 Blk13 Metrogate Subdivision Meycauayan Bulacan LA [illegible] Min. Bid - P 812,600.00 WITHDRAWN

25Res'l H& L- 182 Saluysoy Meycauayan Bul LA 337 Min. Bid - P 1,595,500.00

26Res'l Lot-Lot 4259-6 Pinagkuartelan, Pandi, Bul. LA 774 Min. Bid - P 736,500.00

27Res'l H&L-1strv, 2BR,1CR, LR1,DR1,w/terrace Bunsuran 1st Pandi Bul. LA 1,965 / FA 249.5 Min. Bid - P 2,900,500.00

28Res'l H& L-2strv 3BR 1LR basement garage terrace Bagong Barrio Pandi Bul LA 1,102 / FA 248.8 Min. Bid - P 1,104,000.00

29 Vacant Lot - Lot 53-1 Sta Ines, Plaridel Bulacan LA 473 Min. Bid - P 269,000.00

30Res'l Lot-Lot 5 6 7&8 Blk 2 Sta Monica Subdivision Nabuag Plaridel Bulacan LA 864 sqm Min. Bid - P 1,231,500.00

31 Res'l H&L-3BR w/ grge &terrace Lot 15 Blk 1 Sta Monica Subd., Nabuag Plaridel Bulacan LA 216/FA 182.50 Min. Bid - P 973,000.00

Residential

32 Res.'l H&L-2stry/Lot13 385 Enomang Subd., Brgy. Banga 1st, Plaridel Bulacan LA 100 / FA 92.20 Min. Bid - P 829,500.00

33 Res.'l Lot- Lot 3-D-5-A, 3-D-5-B /Vcnt / St.Andrew Subd., Pob. SJDM Bul.LA Min. Bid - P 220,500.00

34 Res.'l Lot- Lot 2302-G-8, 2302-G-7, 2302-G-6 /Vcnt Bo. Lambakin, San Miguel Bulacan LA 3,000 Min. Bid - P 270,000.00

35 Resl Lot-Lot 3-A/Vacant Partida, San Mig.,Bul. LA Min. Bid - P 89,500.00

36 Res'l Lot-Lot 3179-R-1 to R-5 /Vcnt Sta. Lucia, San Miguel Bul., LA - 4,000 Min. Bid - P 540,000.00

37 Res'l Lot-Vacant Lot 2675-A-17,2675-A-16, Tibagan, San Miguel, LA - 1,080 Min. Bid - P 389,000.00

38 Res'l Lot-Lot 6-B/Vcnt Tigpalas,San Miguel Bulacan LA - 2,709 Min. Bid - P 2,757,500.00

39 Res'l Lot-Lot 2347-6-4to5 Brgy.Sta.Lucia,San Miguel Bulacan LA - 1,384 Min. Bid - P 138,500.00

40 Res'l Lot-Vcnt Sibul,San Bulacan LA - 1,700 Min. Bid - P 10,000.00

41Res'l Lot-Vcnt Sibul, San Bulacan LA- 2,800 Min. Bid - P 28,000.00

42Res'l Lot--Vcnt Masioit SanMig.,Bul. LA - 1,800 Min. Bid - P 42,000.00

43Res'l H&L-(2)strv/Lot/2152-334 Kalawitan Road Malipampang San Ildefonso Bulacan LA - 1,093 / FA 631.00 Min. Bid - P 925,500.00

44Res'l H&L- Main & Basement Balcony & grge, Garments working area-Lot804-A-5to7 Sn Juan dedios Vill.,Tambubong San Rafael,Bulacan LA 720 / FA 439.25 Min. Bid - P 1,184,000.00

45Res'l H&L-2strv 4BR,2TB w/grge-Lot106-A 28 Libis St., San Rafael Bulacan LA 254 / FA 264.45 Min. Bid - P 999,500.00

46Res'l Lot-vacant Brgy. Balasing, Sta.Maria Bulacan LA 047 Min. Bid - P 388,500.00

47Res'l Lot-(2) strv Lot 1584-F (3) BR/(3) CR/ w/ terrace Tabing-Bakod, Sta.Maria Bul. LA 1,144 FA 173.04 Min. Bid - P 1,702,000.00

CALOOCAN

48Res'l Lot-Vcnt Rainbow Vill.5 Deparo,Cal LA 216 Min. Bid - P 410,500.00

49Res'l H&L-Lot 21-A,21-B,& 21-C, (2)strv Ramos St., Bagbaguing Cal. LA 139 / FA [illegible] Min. Bid - P 1,236,000.00 WITHDRAWN

50Res'l H&L- Dominic Subd., Deparo Cal. LA 200 Min. Bid - P 532,500.00

MANDALUYONG

51Res'l H&L-(2)strv(5)BR Lot 62-R /Vcn 3252-B Francisco Comp., F.Roxas St.,Brgy. Pagasa Mandaluyong City LA 228 / FA 224.00 Min. Bid - P 3,931,500.00

MUNTINLUPA

52Res'l Lot-Vcnt / Bo.Sucat Int.East Service Rd., LA 9,754 Min. Bid - P 37,004,500.00

QUEZON CITY

53Res'l Lot-Lot 3 Blk 2 /Vcnt Tancinco St.,Greenfields I Subdivision, Novaliches Quezon City LA 382 Min. Bid - P 1,528,000.00

54Res'l Lot-Lot 7 Blk6-A /Vcnt Moses St. Capitol LA 300 Min. Bid - P 900,000.00

55 Resl Lot-Vacant Lots-5 6 9 10 11 16 18 Parthenon Hills Subd Q C LA 2 181 Min. Bid - P 7,252,000.00

56 Vacant lot-Lot 18 Blk 16 Oakville St Greenview P-3 Magbag Q C LA 160 Min. Bid - P 760,000.00

57 Res'l Lot De vega comp Fairvewpark Fairview Q C LA 1 908 1 Min. Bid - P 5,329,500.00

58 Res 'l H&L-w/Garage 24 spring Vill Q C LA 486 / FA 471 Min. Bid - P 9,297,500.00

59 Res 'l H&L- Don Alejandro St Greenfield III Nova Q C LA 618 Min. Bid - P 9,701,500.00

60 Res 'l Condo-Unit#502 1BR 1T&B / Aravat Mansion Aravat Q C FA 58 98 Min. Bid - P 1,474,500.00

61 Res 'l Condo-Unit#4-D 1BR 1T&B / Aravat Aravat Q C FA 37 46 Min. Bid - P838,500.00

62 Res 'l Condo-Unit#7-C 1BR 1T&B / Aravat Aravat Q C FA 33 37 Min. Bid - P 835,000.00

Residential

63 Res.'l Condo-Unit#4-C, 1BR,1T&B / Aravat Mansion Aravat Q.C. FA 33.37 Min. Bid - P835,000.00

64 Res.'l Condo-Unit#202, Studio type/ Aravat Mansion Aravat Q.C. FA 30.57 Min. Bid - P 764,500.00

65 Res.'l Condo-Unit#402, Studio type/ Aravat Mansion Aravat Mansion,Aravat Q.C. FA 30.57 Min. Bid - P 764,500.00

66 Res.'l Condo-Unit#407, Studio type/ Aravat Mansion Aravat Q.C. FA 29.08 Min. Bid - P 727,500.00

67 Res.'l Condo-Unit#501, 1BR,1TB /Aravat Mansion Aravat Q.C. FA 29.01 Min. Bid - P 725,500.00

68 Res.'l Condo-Unit#203, Studio type /Aravat Mansion Aravat Q.C. FA 28.79 Min. Bid - P 720,000.00

69 Res.'l Condo-Unit#403, Studio type / Aravat Mansion Aravat Q.C. FA 28.79 Min. Bid - P 720,000.00

70 Res.'l Condo-Unit#208, Studio type / Aravat Mansion Aravat Q.C. FA 28.47 Min. Bid - P 712,000.00

71 Res.'l Condo-Unit#408, Studio type / Aravat Mansion Aravat Q.C. FA 28.47 Min. Bid - P 712,000.00

72 Res.'l Condo-Unit#204 Studio type / Aravat Mansion Aravat Q.C. FA 28.41 Min. Bid - P 710,500.00

73 Res.'l Condo-Unit#404 Studio type / Aravat Mansion Aravat Q.C. FA 28.41 Min. Bid - P 710,500.00

74 Res.'l Condo-Unit#406 Studio type / Aravat Mansion Aravat Q.C. FA 28.41 Min. Bid - P 710,500.00

75 Res.'l H&L-(2) strv 16 Malambing St., UP Village Diliman Q.C. LA 800.8 / FA 636.00 Min. Bid - P 14,905,000.00

76 Res'l H&L-(1)strv, (2) BR W/Garage-Lot 17 Blk. 32 Lagro Subd.,Nova. Q.C. LA - 180 / FA 130.00 Min. Bid - P 1,169,500.00

77 Res'l H&L- W/Garage-Lot 2 Happy Homes Vill.Pluto St., Bahay Toro Proj.8 Q.C. LA - 54 / FA 164.76 Min. Bid - P 1,560,000.00

VALENZUELA

78 Res'l Lot-Vcnt / Veinte Reales, Val.MM LA 550 Min. Bid - P 878,000.00

79 Res'l Lot-Vacant /Lot 1482- Brgy. Gen.T.deleon,Val.MM LA - 316 Min. Bid - P 901,000.00

80 Res'l Lot - Lot 3-A & 4-A M.H.del Pilar St.,Malanday,Val LA - 205 Min. Bid - P 816,500.00

81Res'l Lot-Vcnt/ Lot 2-A-5-B, Lot 2-A-5-C La mesa St., Ugong Val MM LA - 2,315 Min. Bid - P4,167,000.00

82Res'l H&L-(1)strv Espiritu St., Bo Mabolo LA - 368 / FA 177.12 Min. Bid - P 1,776,500.00

83Res'l H&L-(2)strv, Duplex W/Garage- Lot 3 & 4 Angeles Comp.,Gen.T.de Valenzuela, MM LA - 179 / FA 181.31 Min. Bid - P 973,000.00

84Res'l H&L-(1)strv,(3)BR w/grge-Lot 809 D-1 Brgy.Gen.T.deleon,Val.MM LA 224 / FA 155.5 Min. Bid - P 962,500.00

RIZAL

85Res'l Lot-Lot 10&12 Blk 7/ Vcnt/ Banshaw St.,Amityville, San Jose, Rodriguez, Rizal LA 360 Min. Bid - P 431,000.00

86Res'l Lot-/Vcnt Sitio [illegible] Gate II [illegible] Rizal LA 362 Min. Bid - P 632,600.00 WITHDRAWN

87Res'l Lot-Lot 19 21 29 Blk 9/ Brgy San Rafael Montalban Rizal LA 1 184 Min. Bid - P 2,013,000.00

88Res'l H&Lot-(1) strv (3) BR (1) TB Lot 6 Blk 1 Town&Country Hills Brgy. Inarawan Cogeo Antipolo Rizal / LA 316 Min. Bid - P 971,500.00

89Res'l H&Lot-(1) strv Lot 23 Blk 2/Vacant Arveemar Subd Bo San Isidro Angono Rizal LA 1 046 Min. Bid - P 1,836,500.00

90Res'l H&L-(1)strv (2)BR w/grge-Lot 17 Blk 3 Maria Venson St ,Gloria Hts., Antipolo Rizal/LA 230 FA 117 Min. Bid - P 1,350,500.00

91Res'l H&L- Penafrancia Hills Mayamot Antipolo Rizal LA 290 Min. Bid - P 1,203,000.00

92Res'l H&L-(1)strv Lot 4 Blk 2 4 St Anthony St Milagros Subd Brgy Dalig Antipolo Rizal / LA 299 FA 95 Min. Bid - P 906,000.00

93Res'l Lot-Lot 6 /Vcnt Bo Cupang Itaas, Antipolo Rizal LA 10 000 Min. Bid - P 270,000.00

Commercial

BULACAN

94 Comml / Ind'l Prop. w/Whs Bo.Ibayo,Marilao,Bulacan LA 56,470 Min. Bid - P 100,000,000.00

95 Comml/Res'l Prop.w/ 2 bldg. b1-1strv/b2-2strv Lot1-4 & 6-7 with terrace/23-25Prov Rd.Hulo,Meycauayan Bul. LA 607 / FA 476.88 Min. Bid - P 6,930,000.00

96 Res'l /Ind'l /Lot 1718 Bo.San Agustin,San Miguel Bulacan LA 634 / FA 128.99 Min. Bid - P 2,183,500.00

97 Com'l /Ind'l / Agric'l Lot Sta.Lucia,San Miguel,Bulacan LA 7,589 Min. Bid - P 393,500.00

98Com'l /Ind'l/Res'l/Lot Nat'l.H-Way,Bo.Malipangpang, San Idelfonso,Bul. LA 975 Min. Bid - P 102,000.00

99Comml/Res'l/Agri/ Ind'l/Lot Mataas na Parang,Sn Idelfonso,Bulacan LA 46,960 Min. Bid - P 3,305,000.00

100Comml/Indl Lot/w/ Fctry &garage / Brgy.Casilhan, San Rafael,Bul. LA 27,139 LA 27,139 Min. Bid - P 26,033,000.00

101Comml/Agri/ Ind/ Lot/w/ Brgy.Catmon,Sta Maria, Bul. LA 12,017 / FA 1,555 Min. Bid - P 3,682,500.00

102Comml/Resl/w/Office bldg w/garage / /Lot 2924-A-2 San Vicente,Sta. Maria Bul. LA 6,445.5 / FA 339.75 Min. Bid - P 2,900,500.00

MAKATI

103Com'l /Resl Lot-vacant Lot 23 Blk 24 Pasong Tamo San Antonio Vill.,Makati City LA 669 Min. Bid - P 53,520,000.00

104Comml/Resl Bldg./ Condo World Center,Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City LA 801.90 Min. Bid - P 43,304,500.00

MUNTINLUPA

105Comml/resl/Vacant Lot / Lot 6,7 & 8 Blk2 Roman Cruz Ave.,Soldiers Hills Muntinlupa City LA 3,041 Min. Bid - P 31,778,500.00

PARANAQUE

106Com'l /Res'l/Ind'l lot St.Peter St.,Multinational Vill. Paranaque City LA 800 Min. Bid - P 15,022,000.00

QUEZON CITY

107Comml/Res'l/Indl lot w/Bldg. Mozart St.,Brgy.Sauyo Q.C. LA 795 FA 755 Min. Bid - P 78,171,000.00

108Com'l / Res'l Bldg 2 strv. 19th Ave.,cor.Zamora St.,Q.C. LA 468.6 FA 665.75 Min. Bid - P 11,240,500.00

109 Comml/Indl Prop. Sauyo Rd.,Bagbag,Q.C. LA 2,172 / FA 3,748.20 Min. Bid - P 22,414,500.00

110Com'l /Res'l Bldg. 4 strv. Isabela St.,Bago Bantay,Q.C. LA 67.8 Min. Bid - P 386,500.00

111Comml/ Resl Condo 137 San Antonio St.,SF Del Monte, Q.C.LA 1,123.7 Min. Bid - P 14,122,000.00

VALENZUELA

112Comml/Indl prop /w/1strv bldg ITC Comp. Bagbaguin, LA 8,907 FA 7,440 Min. Bid - P 50,747,500.00

113Comml/Ind'l prop w/imprvmts Cabral St.,Malinta,Val.MM LA 2,805 Min. Bid - P 12,768,500.00

114Com'l/Resl Lot/vacant lot Paso de Blas, Val.MM LA 708.50 Min. Bid - P 7,065,000.00

115 Com'l Lot-w/ improvments Cabesang Porong,Punturin, Valenzuela MM LA 832.71 Min. Bid - P 1,523,000.00

116Com'l/Indl/Resl Lot/vacant E Encarnacion Val LA 1,209 Min. Bid - P 6,900,000.00

RIZAL

117Com'l Lot w/ bldg Mia Mall Quezon Ave Ext Antipolo Rizal LA 2,611 Min. Bid - P 53,279,000.00

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL:
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(TL)812-1091-97
loc 2431 & 2911

Just bring P 10,000.00 (cash or MC) Show Money for each Property awarded

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ADDEE	– 805-9117	EVELYN	– 541-4794
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Quezon City,
Cainta, Antipolo

Daphne
P2.4M

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P488Th D/P 6 mos.
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REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

HOUSE & LOT

COMML/RESDL

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3 BR 2 tel lines 2 parking

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ORCHARD FAIRWAY LOT - 705 sq.m.
Dasmariñas, Cavite

ANTEL PLATINUM TOWER
Makati - 97.38 sq.m.
2 BR 1 parking

ANTEL SEAVIEW - Tower C
Roxas Blvd., Pasay City
3 BR 147.08 sq.m. 2 parking

ASIA TOWER CONDO - Makati
Unit 2401 - 1 BR 78.1 sq.m. 1 parking

ASIA TOWER CONDO - Makati
Unit 2411 - 2 BR 76.4 sq.m. 1 parking

COMM'L LOT - P. Burgos Pasay
Area - 1225.46 sq.m. & 363 sq.m.

COMM'L LOT w/ 4-Storey Bldg.
Area - 707 sq.m. (P. Burgos Pasay)

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Area - 10,000 sq.m.

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LOT

QUEZON CITY

LOT

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- beside Coca Cola Export Corp. and Pilipinas Hino Inc.
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Q.Ave. 1400 38T/m²
E. Rod. 1000 30T/m²
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nr Main Rd 13T 09194402695

★Nr. Ateneo 3.5M 6819868

★TIERRA PURA★
4BR4TB6Cg Grdn Elgnt P13M
★MIRA-NILA BNEW 1BR DOWN
3br3tb2cg OWNER BILT P4.9
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WITH POOL 24HR SEC.
P2.8M T.SORA NR
MINDANAO EXT
★SMCity 3BR2TB ATTIC P3M
•4BR4TB Maids Elgnt P4.8M
★ABS-CBN 5br5tb2cg P9.9M
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PROJ.3 Blg 2sty la267m² 7BR 3TB P2.8M T-9137916

•Teachers Vill 600m² Bung 4BR4TB w/bodega nice 11M
•Sikatuna 594m² 2Ilses 12M
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RIZAL

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SAN JUAN

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PROVINCIAL

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FURNISHED HOUSE 254M²
PACITA SAN PEDRO
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RUSH Pacita Sn Pedro LAG near Gate Cheap 8070634

RUSH SPL proper LA552 Big Bung 5.7M neg 869-1024

RUSH!CanyonWoods Btngas 6.5M 09185052638

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PARANAQUE

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401m² nr Cherry 3643837

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NR SSHIWAY Bnew
Twnhse/4stry/4br/3tb/grge/maid
P3.035M up 8903461 loc 34

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QUEZON CITY

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Notice is hereby given that the estate of late ANDRES L. ABEJO has been extrajudicially settled among his heirs per Doc No. 41, Page No. 9, Book No. XIV Series of 1997 before notary public Renato M. Cervantes of Manila. (PDI-Feb. 3, 10, & 17 2002.)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late AMBROSIO S. LORENZO has been settled extrajudicially among his heirs per Doc. No. 287, Page No. 59, Book No. 18, Series of 2001 before Notary Public Hilarion T. Omadto Jr. (PDI-Jan. 27, Feb. 3 & 10, 2002)

NOTICE OF LOSS

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Stock Certificate of MITSUBISHI CORPORATION under the name of NAOYUKI NOBE S.Cert.No.18 w/1 Share Dated March 23, 2001.If no contest presented w/in 3 consecutive week of publication,new cert. will be issued
(PDI-Jan.27,Feb3&10,2002

TRAVEL

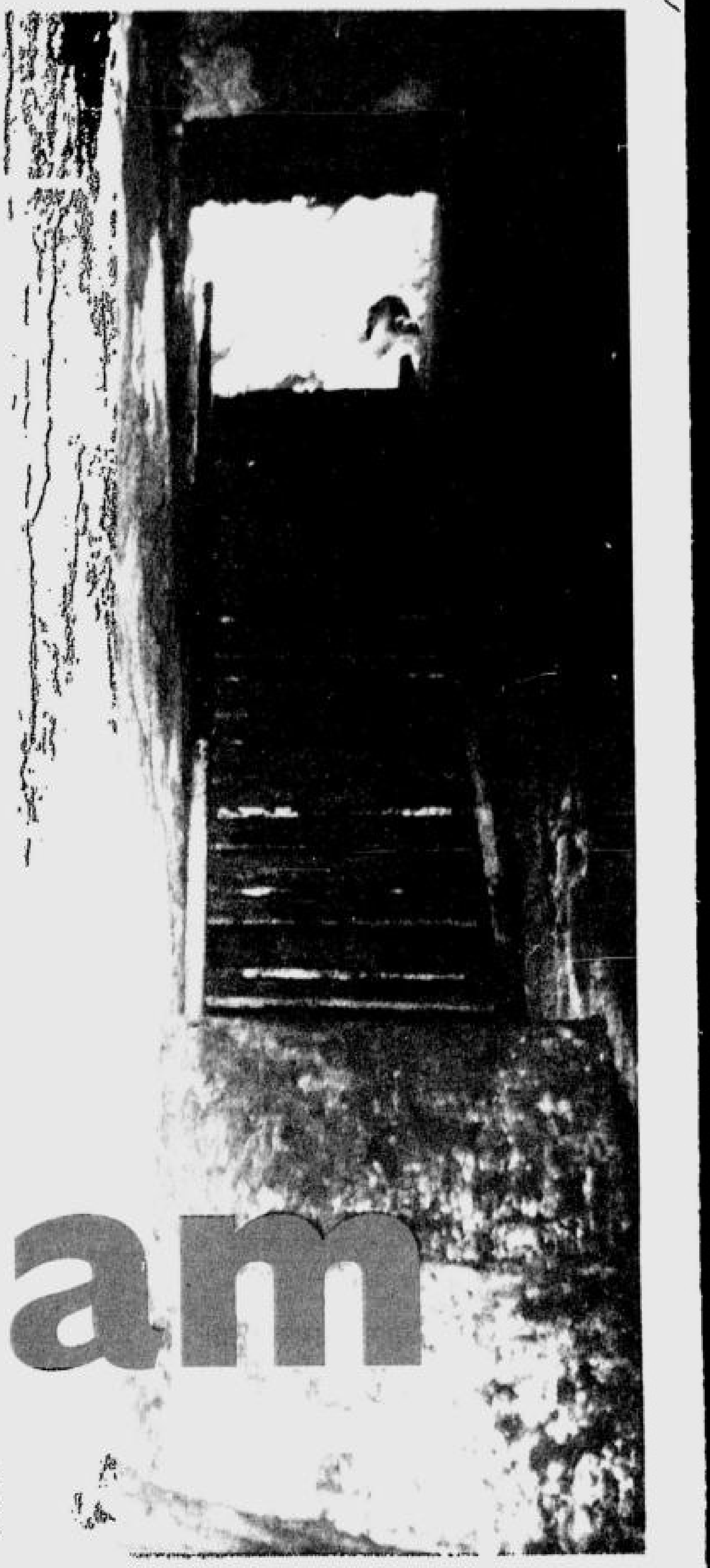
Rosario A. Garcellano, Editor

GUIDE Tran Hang Manh going into square-foot hole in the ground

NO fear in the 30-meter Ben Dinh Tunnel

The first tunnel was dug in 1948, during the war against the French colonizers.

Underground in 'Nam



SUNLIGHT and fresh air at the top of the steps

The network was completed 20 years later, halfway through the Vietnam War

Text and photos
By Angelina G. Goloy

FIND out if the Caravelle Hotel is still there. Ask about Tay Ninh, see if they can take you there.

A colleague drew up this "mission order" when I told him I was preparing to visit Vietnam. Roy Acosta, this paper's former editor, chronicled a chapter in the war there more than three decades ago as one of the few Filipino journalists reporting the action right where it was happening.

Then a staff member of dzHP and the Philippines Herald, he arrived at Cam Ranh Bay in September 1966 aboard a landing ship tank with the first Philippine Civic Action Group to Vietnam (PhilcagV), led by Gen. Gaudencio V. Tobias, and for the next three months covered its activities there. He has not gone back since.

The Caravelle, particularly Saigon Saigon bar, he said, was where foreign correspondents converged to write their stories and swap information.

Tay Ninh, the province northwest of Saigon, near the Cambodian border, was where part of the Allied forces, including the PhilcagV, were based. Overlooking the countryside campsites was Mount Nui Ba Den (Black Lady Mountain), on top of which the Green Berets set up their relay station.

After two days in Saigon—renamed Ho Chi Minh City after the war—I accomplished half of my mission. Yes, the Caravelle was still there. Located on Lam Son Square in the heart of the city, a modern 24-story wing, added to the original 10-story, French-designed building during the 1998 renovation, now dwarfed the Opera House across the street.

Saigon Saigon, its "open-air" bar, was still one of the most popular nightspots. A Filipino band was packing 'em in the night our tour group dropped in.

Unfortunately, Tay Ninh was too far from the city to squeeze into our two-day tour, which was organized by Philippine Airlines. However, we did set foot on one of the war's battlegrounds, located along the route to Tay Ninh.

Cu Chi district is known for the 250-kilometer tunnel network, which the Viet Cong guerrillas in Ben Duoc village used in engaging the enemy in a unique form of warfare.

Imagining a typical tunnel through which weapons, provisions, and fighters were transported, albeit secretly, I wondered why it would interest visitors. It turned out that visitors did not just drive past the tunnel or through it, they went down into it, on foot.

Suddenly claustrophobic, my companions Ester Dipasupil and Joanne Rae Ramirez and I were ready to back out. But our chaperone, PAL's Vietnam manager Ging Ledesma, reassured us that the experience was not as dreadful as we thought. Besides, Consul Randolph Arroyo advised us, the tunnel had several segments, and we could always tell our guide if we wanted to get out at the next exit.

We agreed to conquer our fears—and the tunnel—one segment at a time.

After a ride of nearly two hours in a Saigontourist Travel Service van, we reached the reservation, managed by the Historical Vestiges of Cu Chi Tunnel. We first viewed an old, scratchy film about how the villagers helped the guerrillas fight the enemy, who dropped bombs in their backyards, forcing them to field even teenage girls to the frontlines.

An English-speaking guide then described the tunnel structure with the aid of a scale model, presented from a lateral perspective.

The underground network had four levels—the first dug three meters underground, the second, six meters, then eight, and finally 10. Crawling through the tunnels measuring 40-60 centimeters wide, the guerrillas were able to move around the villages, at times underneath the very camps of the Americans, we were told.

The tunnels interconnected several chambers that formed part of a virtual village—complete with clandestine clinics where babies were born and the wounded were operated on. There was a meeting room where guerrillas drew up battle strategies, sleeping rooms with hammocks (easier to lug in an emergency), fighting bunkers, and ammunition storage.

The kitchen had an adjacent chamber, where smoke was temporarily trapped before being released through an opening a mile away so as to mislead anyone who would detect it and try to trace its source. There were classrooms for the children and makeshift theaters for entertainment.

Down on the lowest level was a well with a trap door at the bottom that led to an escape route to the Saigon River.

Also within the network were booby traps, where some of the most horrible tales of torture and death are said to have taken place.

The tunnel network was an ingenious engineering feat, achieved with the use of a *cuoc*, something like a native hoe, which looked more like an elongated ice cream scoop. From the first tunnel, dug in 1948 during the war against the French colonizers, the network was completed 20 years later, halfway through the Vietnam War.

We did not get to see the underground village. Whatever courage we had mustered waned when we saw the first tunnel opening in a clearing in the woods.

An American couple watched their guide demonstrate how a guerrilla would disappear into the ground through a square-foot hole. One would have to have the typical Vietnamese build and a gymnast's grace and precision to execute the move!

Now conscious of our figure, we hoped our guide would show us more accommodating openings. Baiting us with the idea of a rare underground photo op, he succeeded in convincing us to go beyond the entrance.

I agreed to go down first. If at any point I got cold feet, I was to holler to Ester and Joanne to turn back.

After descending a short flight of steps carved out of the ground, the tunnel came into view, tomb-like, taunting. I hesitated, but my companions egged me on.

I landed on the tunnel floor squatting—and remained in that position for the next 15 minutes or so as I inched my way through to the nearest exit, my forearms pushing against the sides for balance (and my knees betraying my age with their creaking). Remember, the tunnel was 40-60 centimeters wide and about three-and-a-half feet high.

The tunnel was amply lit by pinlights presumably installed when the network was sanitized and transformed into a tourist attraction following the government's 1986 "open door" policy. But with every step, the air seemed to get thicker, heavier, although thankfully odorless. Quickly I banished the thought that a dead GI or VC could have once lain on the spot where I squatted.

Our constantly smiling (or amused?) guide, who spoke no English, apparently sensed the onset of terror, and pointed to an air vent on my right, just above my head. The hole was no bigger than my fist.

As he motioned to take my camera, the two girls hollered if it was OK to follow. Sure, let's have some picture taking, I shouted back, my tension finding release in nervous laughter. Braver now with company, I offered to record our unique experience on film.

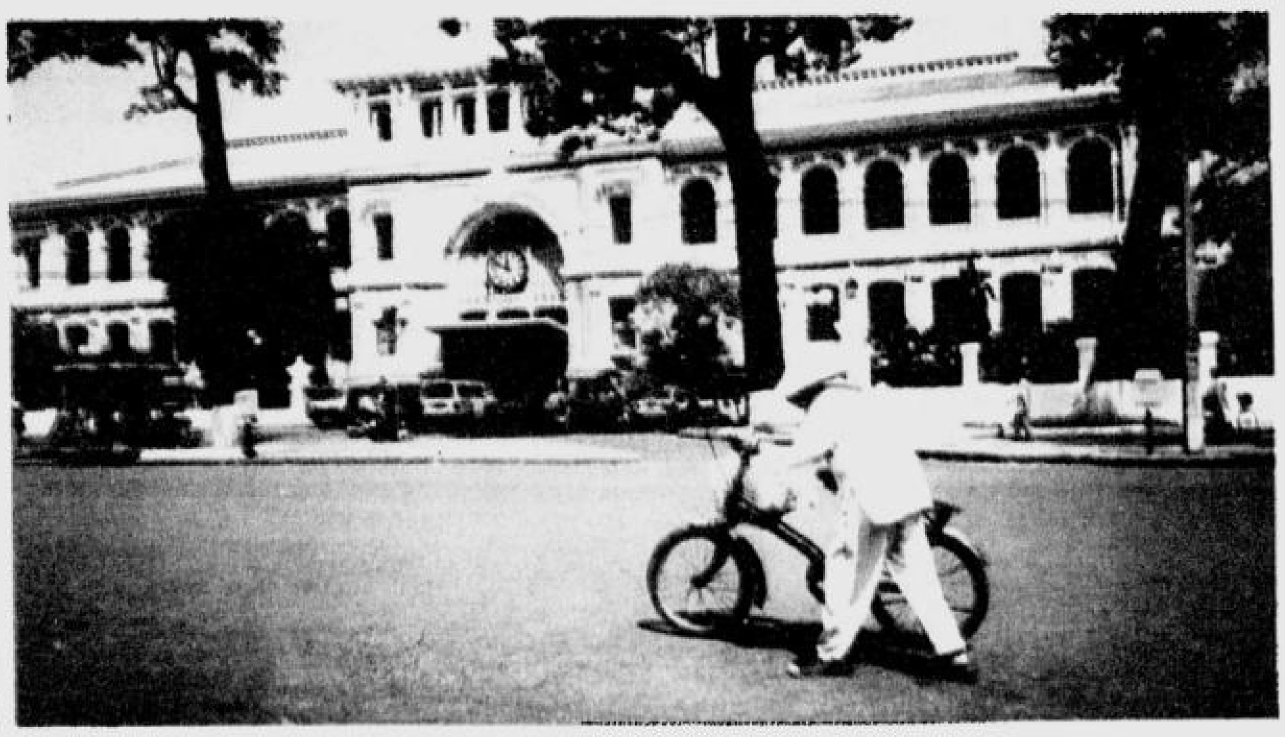
A tinge of fear resurfaced at the next blind turn. I held up, and was rewarded shortly by the sight of light streaming down a longer flight of steps in the distance. At the top of the stairs, Ging waited for her wards.

Exhilaration filled us all as we climbed back to the sunlight and fresh air. We were told we had just emerged from the 30-meter Ben Dinh Tunnel, the shortest segment in the first level.

As a prize for taking the Cu Chi challenge, our guide invited us to tea and snacks in one of the half-submerged halls that served as dining area. A similar chamber served as souvenir shop, selling lighters, pendants, and miniature fighter planes fashioned from bullets and scrap metal, as well as guerrilla sandals made from tires.

Back at home, my colleague found our experience interesting. Curiously, however, he had not heard about the Cu Chi tunnels.

PAL flies to Ho Chi Minh City Tuesdays and Thursdays. For inquiries, call 855-8888.



CITY scene at Ho Chi Minh (that's the postal office in the background)

TRAVEL BRIEFS

More Valentine treats

LOVERS, friends and families, check these out:

At Hotel Inter-Continental Manila on Feb. 11-17, single or double accommodation rates per night for local residents are P3,000++ for a deluxe room; P4,000++, executive room; P5,000++, executive suite; and P12,000++, state suite. All packages include buffet breakfast for two at Café Jeepney, a bottle of wine and free use of the Clark Hatch Fitness Center and swimming pool.

Call 815-9711 local 373 to 377.

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AT HOLIDAY Inn Resort Clark Field on Feb. 10-17, a "Perfect Together" package offers overnight accommodations in a standard room for P2,700++ or in a junior suite for P3,700++. Couples will wake up to an American breakfast in bed.

On Valentine's Day, there's a poolside dinner with music from a string quartet, and a special buffet at the rooftop Mongolian Restaurant.

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Couples get breakfast for two at the Serendipity Lounge, Valentine souvenirs and a dinner buffet for two at the Café Berrio. They can also take a relaxing massage at the Discovery Spa and a dip in the pool!

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WITH THE Richmonde Hotel's "Sweet Stay Package" valid on Feb. 13, 14 and 15, overnight accommodations are at P4,000 net for a deluxe room; P4,500 net, premier room; and P5,000 net, one-bedroom suite.

Buffet breakfast for two and an intimate set dinner for two at the Richmonde Grill are included in the package. Diners will be provided a glass of red or white wine to toast to memorable times, as well as music from a string duo.

Call 638-7777 or log on to www.richmondehotel.com.

Pamulinawen Fest

THE 9th Pamulinawen Festival is ongoing until Feb. 12 under the stewardship of Laoag City Mayor Roger C. Fariñas and his wife, Asuncion C. Fariñas, in her capacity as vice chair of the steering committee and chair of the city's Tourism Council.

Top government officials, including Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon, Senators Edgardo Angara, Vicente Sotto and Panfilo Lacson, as well as billiards world champion Efren "Bata" Reyes have been invited to serve as guests of honor at separate events.

Among the festival highlights are the selection and coronation of Miss Laoag City Pamulinawen 2002; a "Diana" or ringing of bells; a thanksgiving Mass at the St. William Cathedral officiated by Bishop Ernesto Salgado; and a grand civic and military parade.

Asiana at the Expo

KOREAN carrier Asiana Airlines is offering more tour packages at the 9th Annual Philippine Travel Agencies Association's Travel Tour Expo, which ends today at the SM Megatrade Hall.

Asiana now flies more times from Manila to Seoul with 10 flights a week, plus planned evening flights three times weekly to start on March 27.

Considered the best in passenger services for 2001 by Air Transport World, the airline also offers more connections to favorite destinations. Its partnership programs with Cathay Pacific Airways, Singapore Airlines and American Airlines provide travelers the best destination choices for business and pleasure.

Among the airline's tour packages is a visit to Cheju Island, known as Korea's honeymooners' haven. Its winter tours start at $682 per passenger for twin sharing in the 5-day package and $791 for the 6-day package. Parents are encouraged to bring the whole family because children's tour fares have been reduced by as much as 67 percent.

Tour-pilgrimage

A TOUR of towns founded by the Franciscan missionaries in Rizal and Laguna is scheduled this month and the next.

The tour will cover towns along Laguna de Bay—Morong, Tanay and Baras in Rizal, and Pakil, Paete, Majayjay and Nagcarlan in Laguna.

Writer Visitacion "Chit" de la Torre is organizing the tour. Visit the Tower Book House at Windsor Tower, 163 Legaspi Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City, or call 815-6925, 815-4938, or 0918-9159337.

For feedback, text us at (0918)917-5026 or email us at lifest

Sunday LIFESTY

Chelo Banal-Formoso, Editor

Lady in red

Cory Aquino goes bright and bold on 69th birthday

By Neni Sta. Romana-Cruz
Contributor

AS in years past, President Cory Aquino's birthday celebration on Jan. 25 began with a midmorning Mass at the Convent of the Pink Sisters, QC. It is widely known that the convent is of great significance to her because this is where she seeks refuge during troubled times to pray with the pink-robed sisters, her prayer warriors. Thus, the reminder to everyone by celebrant Fr. Catalino Arevalo, S.J., in his homily that prayers were more powerful than arms and bullets, was apt.

President Cory explained that, even as a child, her mother had brought her to the Pink Sisters. But it was during the trying years of martial law when she found herself often there, initially because of Doña Aurora Aquino and also because of Ninoy's cousin in the congregation, Sr. Mary Constance.

In thanking her guests there and at a private lunch at the Mabuhay Palace of the Manila Hotel hosted by publisher Emilio Yap, Aquino asked for support and prayers for President Macapagal-Arroyo who dropped by the convent a few minutes before the Mass started. In the same breath, she said with much relief, "I am glad I am no longer President."

The birthday luncheon has also become a continuing practice—and all because once, in the past, Aquino hosted one for Yap in appreciation of his support. As a reciprocal gesture, he in turn promised a hundred birthday celebrations for her. "What kind of exchange rate is that," wondered Aquino out loud.

Entertainment was provided by Kris Aquino and her show biz friends Boy Abunda, Jon Lapus and Ai-Ai de las Alas. Kris called on her media-shy siblings to say a few words. She introduced elder sister Ballsy as their mom's favorite,

LADY/ p.C6

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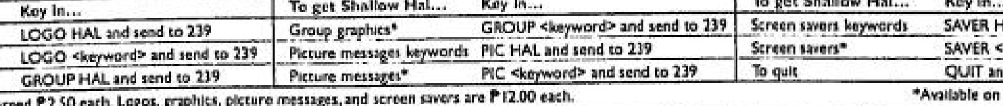
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Logos*	LOGO <keyword> and send to 239	Picture messages keywords	PIC HAL and send to 239	Screen savers*	SAVER <keyword> and send to 239
Group graphics keywords	GROUP HAL and send to 239	Picture messages*	PIC <keyword> and send to 239	To quit	QUIT and send to 239

All text messages will be charged ₱2.50 each. Logos, graphics, picture messages, and screen savers are ₱12.00 each. *Available on selected Nokia handsets only.

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To find out your personality's distinct taste, key in **PLAY HAL** and send to 239. Q: Britney Spears: 1) Rocks my wrld 2) S all rite 3) Grates my nerves	Do you have confidence in your body? Key in **PLAY HAL2** and send to 239. Q: Do u wer horizontl stripes! 1) absolutly not! 2) only 4 my tops 3) y not!	Put your eating habits to the test. Key in **PLAY HAL3** and send to 239. Q: How oftn do u eat breakfast! 1) Always 2) Hardly ever 3) Wen I hav time

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Note: If you're playing a Smart Cinema Club game, quit first before you start the trivia game. To quit, key in **QUIT** and send to 239.

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TEESAW

Raul Teehankee

DISH at Rockwell was filled with beautiful faces and gorgeous bodies when celebrities took over the service area for one night.

Imagine **Assunta de Rossi** taking your orders for a cosmopolitan cocktail; **G. Toengi** concocting a very dry martini; **Diether Ocampo** writing your orders for chicken wings; and **Daphne Ocena** and **Angel Aquino** bringing your orders in a tray.

Yes, Dish owners **Philip Cu-Unjieng**, **EJ Litton** , **Ricky** and **Beng Dee** hit the charity jackpot when they donated last Wednesday night's proceeds to the Kabalikat Buhay Foundation Inc. of the Department of Social Welfare, City of Makati.

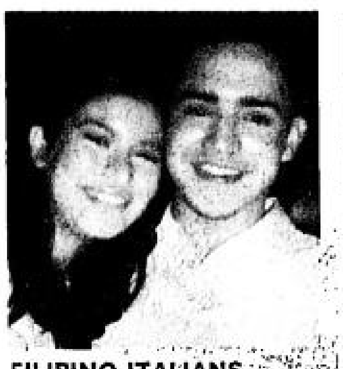
And there were more volunteer celebrities for charity in attendance: **Troy Montero**, **Victor Neri**, **Vina Morales**, **Martin Nievera**, **Pia Guanio**, **Cheryl Cosim**, **Cherry Mercado**, **Mylene Dizon** and **Derek Ramsey**.

It was a charity night to remember.

PATRICIA Javier

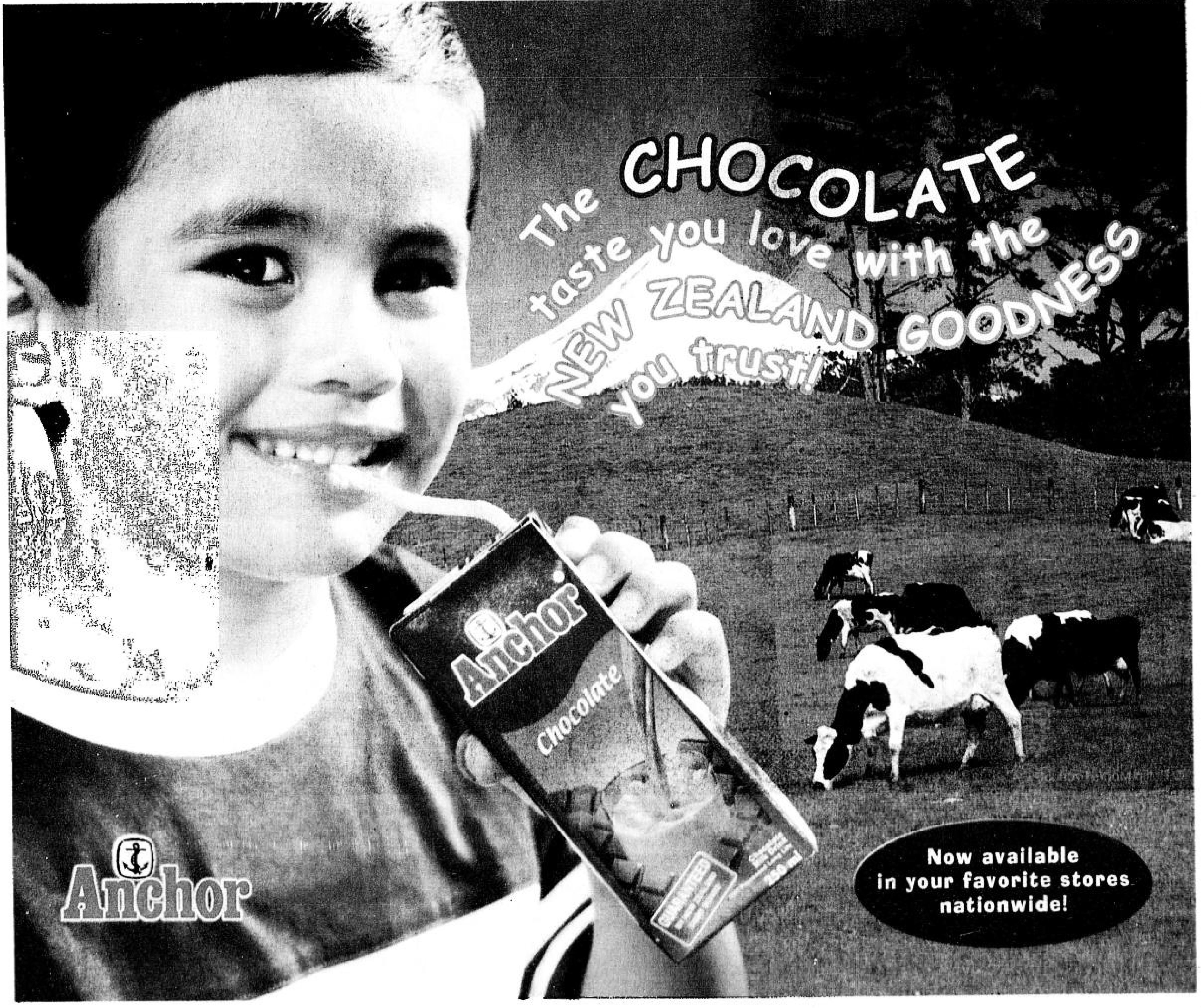
ABBY Binay

IRA Cruz and Mylene Dizon



FILIPINO-ITALIANS, Assunta de Rossi and Paolo Contis

CYNTHIA and Louie Chuidian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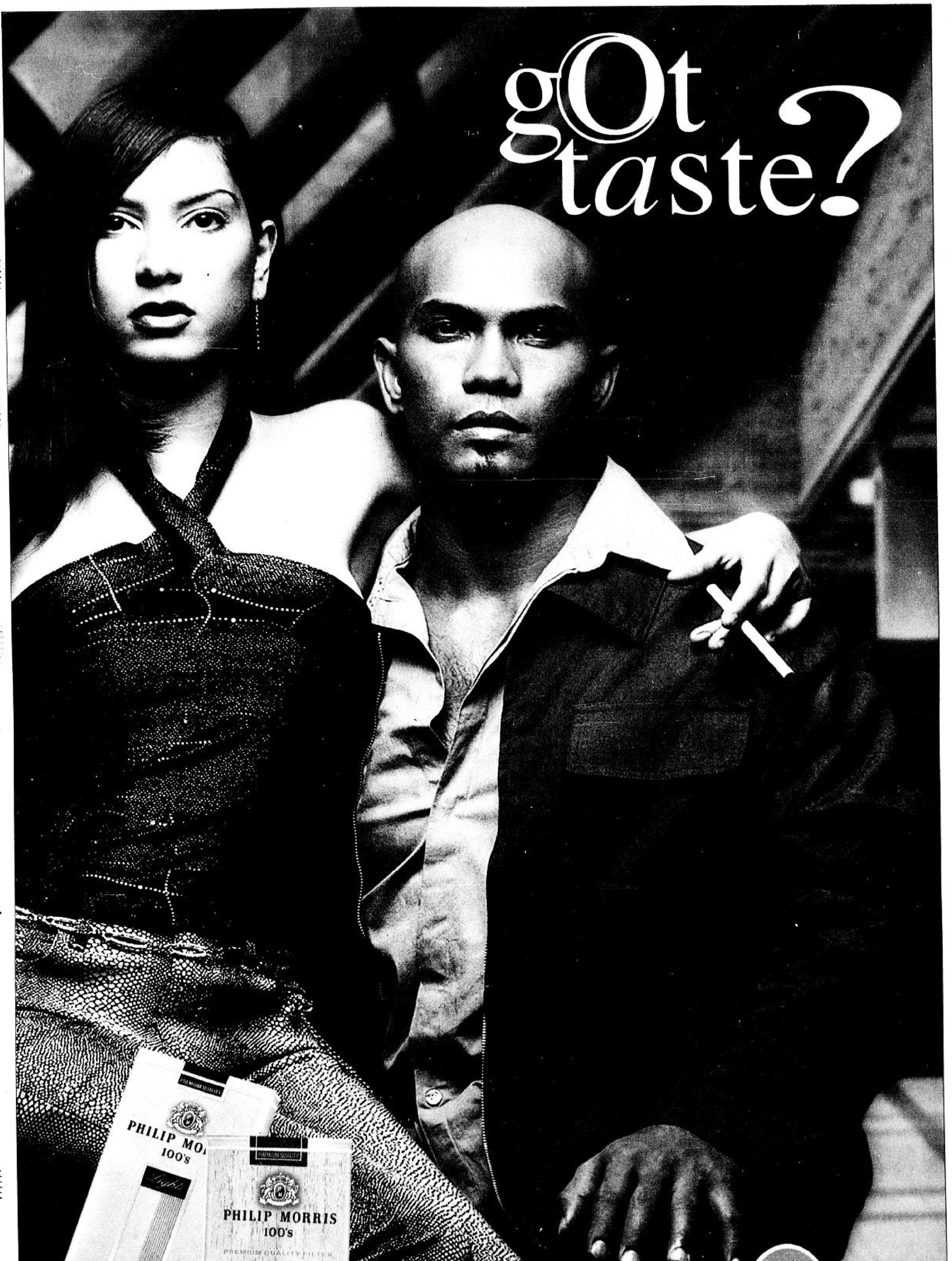
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CES Drilon enjoys the afternoon with mom Lourdes Oreña and sons Luigi, Gian, Ory and Mico.

IT'S never too early to get hooked on Buddy Bear. Martin with little Trixie Sy-Peña and her new friend Buddy Bear

MARTIN gets special help from Buddy Bear as he blows his giant cream puff birthday cake.

IT'S Hello Kitty! Martin shows off his black leather jacket to Miriam Quiambao.

It's a family affair!

Annika and Ty Valdes spend some time with Flik and Flak, the hour hands in Swatch's children's watch line Flik Flak.

IT'S all about family. Brothers Randy and Rowell Santiago host the afternoon's affair.

SUNDAY is always a fun-filled family day at Gift Gate Gallery in Glorietta, but last Sunday was even more special as friends and guests celebrated three events—Martin Nievera's birthday, the launch of Buddy Bear's new look for the year 2002 and the kick-off of Gift Gate's yearlong event, "Teddy Bears: 100th Anniversary 1902-2002."

And celebrate Martin did, with a 10-tower giant cream puff cake that he shared with friends and fans alike. There were enough cream puffs to serve everyone, from the lobby fronting Gift Gate Gallery all the way to the third floor atrium. Champagne flowed like water for the birthday toast for Martin. There was also a full buffet of food—from Waldorf salad, chicken with corn for mom and dad to baked macaroni and rainbow sandwiches for the kids as Gift Gate Privilege Card holders and other guests were encouraged to bring their whole families.

Prizes were given to lucky contestants who answered trivia questions such as "What is Martin's full name?" (Martin Ramon Razon Nievera) and "What are the names of Martin's two kids?" (Robin and Ram). Martin also signed autographs on Buddy Bear dolls and CDs for his fans, well-wishers and other guests.

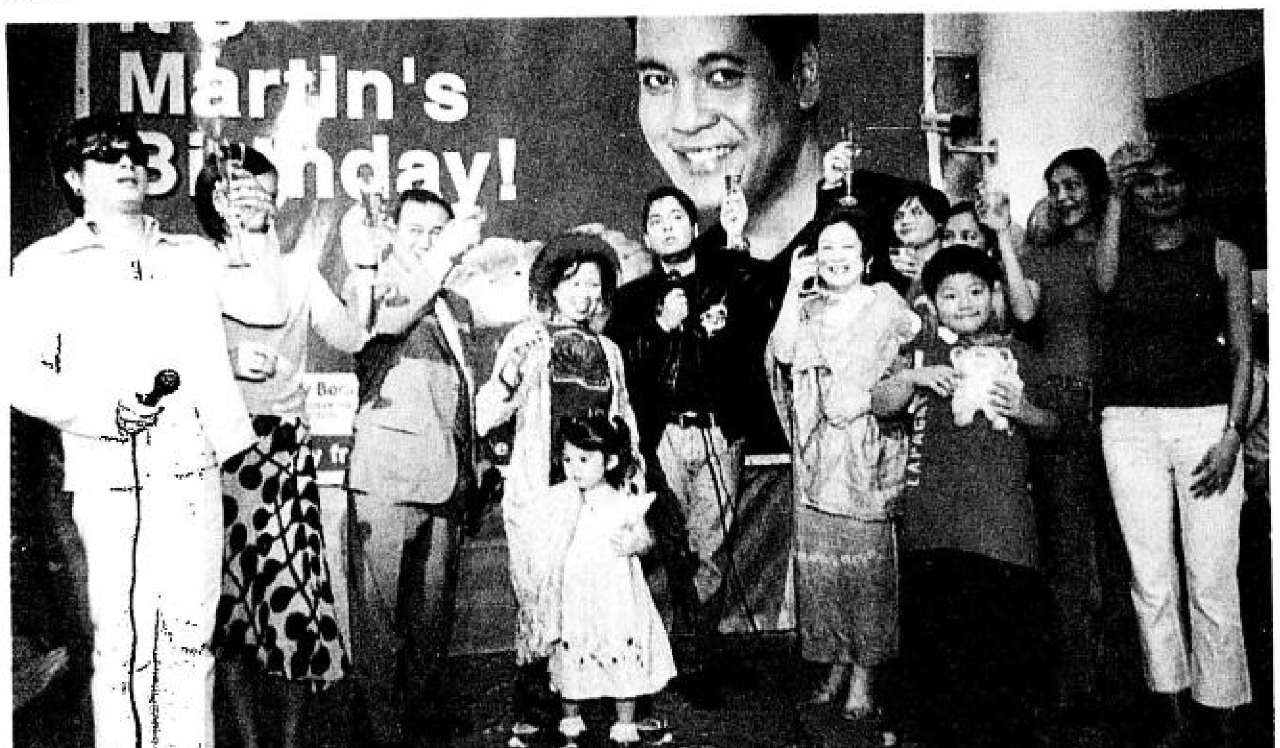
Led by Tessa Prieto-Valdés, who came in a bear costume and won the Star of the Afternoon award, guests joined in the fun and festivities with the hosts, brothers Randy and Rowell Santiago.

Along with his birthday party, Martin and Gift Gate launched the new look for Martin's buddy—Buddy Bear. Originally conceived some 18 years ago, the 21st-century version of Buddy Bear now features innovative long arms to make hugging you and accessorizing your bag or outfit much easier.

And because Martin is such a teddy bear fan, it was perfectly appropriate that his birthday and a Buddy Bear event would coincide with the 100th anniversary of the family's most enduring toy, the teddy bear.

Papa Bear, Mama Bear and Baby Bear showed up —in fact, there were 100 bears —and so did other papas and mamas with their kids to toast Martin Nievera and the Teddy Bear

IT'S a family affair at the Glorietta as it rains confetti in celebration of Martin Nievera's birthday.



BIRTHDAY TOAST. Randy Santiago, Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski, Teddy Boy Locsin, Tessa Prieto-Valdes with daughter Annika, the birthday boy, Virgie Ramos, Rowell Santiago, Maritel Nievera, Buddy Bear's friend Jason, Annette Coronel-Cruz and Apples Aberin

LOUIE and Teddy Boy Locsin with their favorite teddy—Buddy Bear

LIKE mother, like son—both avid fans of Buddy Bear. Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworksi with son Robbie

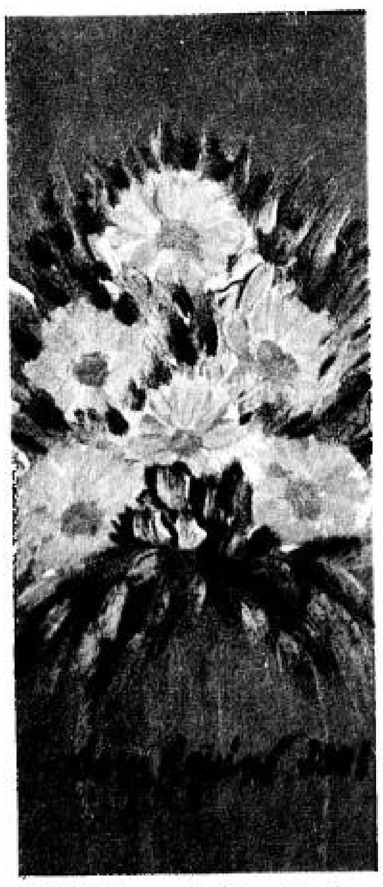
"Teddy Bears: 100th Anniversary 1902-2002" is a year-long event from Gift Gate that will feature teddy bears from all over the world. It started last Sunday with Buddy Bear and the unveiling of Gift Gate's Bear Collection led by Martin, Teddy Boy Locsin Jr. and little Annika Valdés.

Gift Gate is home to 100 different teddy bear designs from all over the world. And these "bear-y" exciting events culminate Christmas 2002 in a "Dress Up Your Teddy Bear" contest. With Diamond Edition Teddy Bears at stake, it's never too early to think up of ideas and it is certainly never too early to think about Christmas.

It was a good day for Nievera who also took time to drop by The Haven after all the festivities to share his birthday joy with its residents. Though all of Martin's wishes can come true, being with Jason—an 11-year-old cancer patient whom he met through the Make a Wish Foundation—was not one of them for the boy had passed away.

Sundays will always be family day especially when celebrated at Gift Gate with another exciting event.

Lady in red


A PAGE from the Cory Aquino 2002 calendar

From page C1

"After me, of course." Ballsy repeated Nelson Mandela's comment to her and Pinky, "You chose the right mother!" Even Rep. Noynoy Aquino was not spared Kris' ribbing, so he reluctantly went on stage with current beau, newscaster Bernadette Sembrano.

But it was comedienne Ai-Ai who brought the house down when she greeted the crowd with a rousing, "Fellow elites, the Zobels, the Ayalas, the Cojuangcos, the bishops and the clergy..." Too bad Cory loyalists Bea Zobel and Mercy Tuason had left by then. Ai-Ai went on to say that she did not mind doing these numbers for free, as she did not mind getting an Hacienda Luisita share in exchange.

"This seems like a children's party with all the giveaways," observed delighted guests like Reggie Coseteng. A favorite were the yellow boxes of note cards bearing Cory Aquino's oil paintings. Painting has become an obsession with her, a preoccupation she turned to in 1997. "Painting helps to relax me, especially after a very busy day and, in fact, gives me a feeling of peace and joy."

Several of her paintings were raffled off during lunch. As evidence of the seriousness of her art, she even has a 2002 calendar of her paintings of colorful flowers printed by Sanyo Japan where she sits as board member. Those who invite her as wedding sponsor have, of late, been receiving a Cory Aquino painting as a present, leading all those who had her as *ninang* prior to her painting days to ask, "Can this gift-giving practice not be retroactive?"

CORY on her 69th birthday

At the end of the gathering that included family, former members of the Aquino Cabinet, Tarlac volunteers for the Aquino Center and steadfast friends from the days of the anti-dictatorship struggle, she invited everyone to visit the Aquino Center, adding that if one gave advance notice, she personally would conduct the guided tour. Aquino said she was pleased there did not seem to be any need now to gather again for mass action. That was probably why she also saw no need to wear yellow that day.

The former president is pleased there does not seem to be any need now to gather again for mass action

Luis Garcia,
Bonakid!

Batang may laban.

May batang kahit sa murang gulang, iba na ang tindig. Kapansin-pansin ang lakas ng loob, ang kakayahang mamuno. At alam mong malayo ang mararating ng batang ito. 'Yan ang Bonakid.

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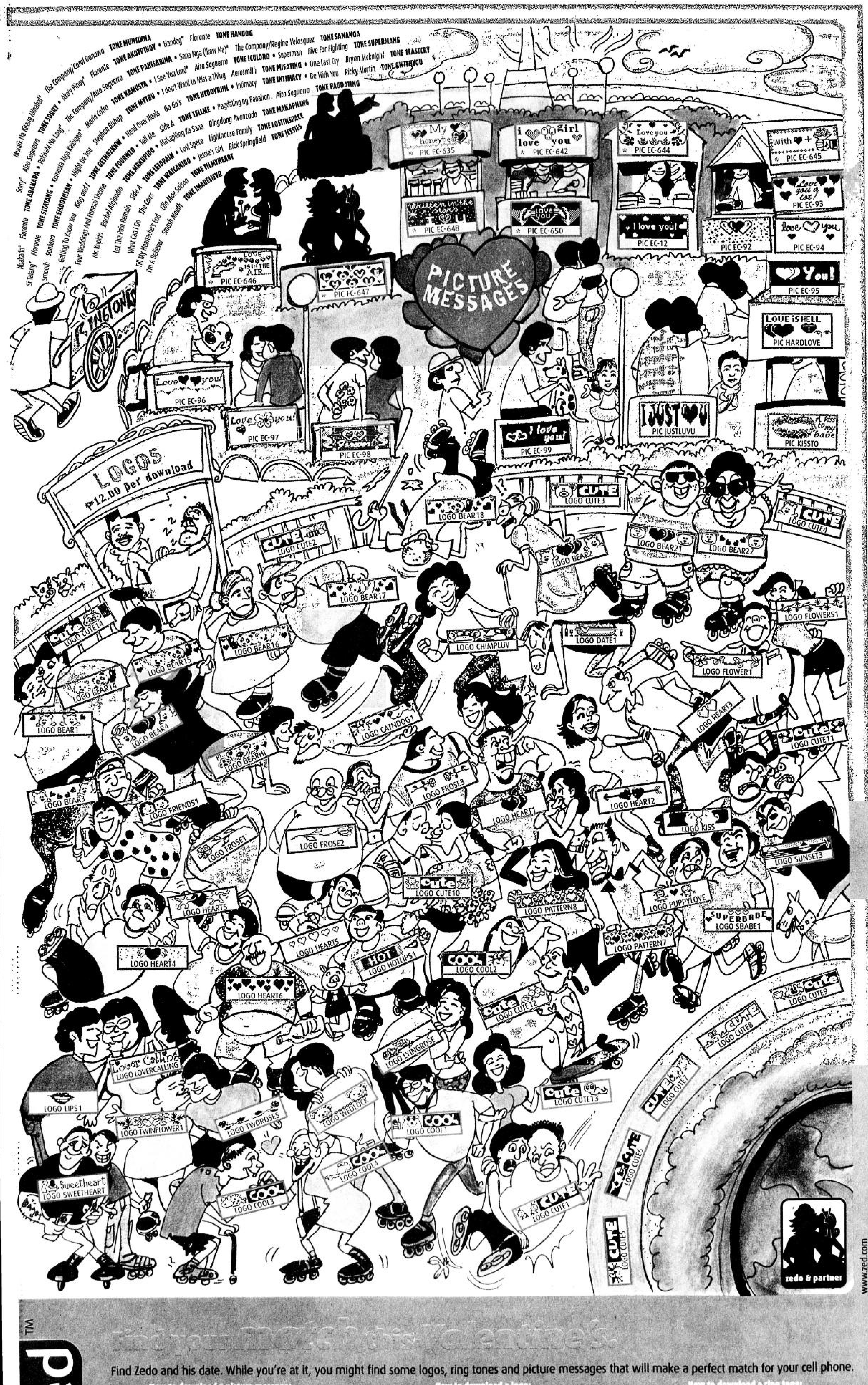

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Si Talang* Florante TONE SITATANG • Kumusta Mga Kaibigan* Maria Cafra TONE KAMUSTA • I See You Lord* Aiza Seguerra TONE ICULORD • Superman Five For Fighting TONE SUPERMANS
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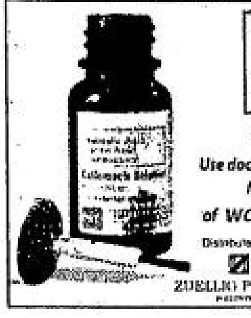

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

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He finds love when he loses his ID

She instantly had a crush on the man in the 1" x 1" photo

NEWLYWEDS
Felipe Olarte and Betty Cuya

By Anne A. Jambora

WHEN Winston Felipe "Whingky" Olarte lost his company ID one day in June 1998, little did he know that he would one day walk down the aisle with the officemate who found it.

Betty Condat Cuya instantly had a crush on the man in the 1" x 1" photo. As circumstance would have it, she found herself inside the elevator with the man in the photograph the following day. The world seemed to stop revolving for Betty for a few minutes; she couldn't bring herself to tell him about his ID.

She had to call Whingky later about it. His careless, even a little leery, reply was hardly encouraging, "Why do you have my ID in your possession?"

Betty was turned off although Whingky, after he got back his ID, would call her once in a while.

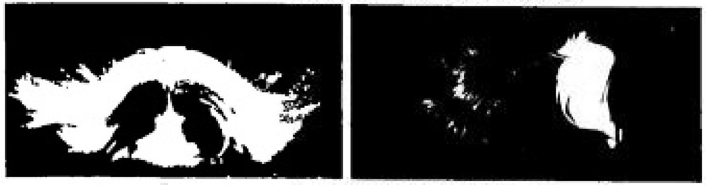
But it would take a typhoon before their paths would cross again. One day, Whingky asked Betty if she would like to join him for lunch. Their friendship blossomed after that and led to a courtship that would last a year and a half.

"It took a while because he wasn't much of a romantic. He never opened the door or pulled out a chair for me. I wasn't really sure if he was sincere. I finally said yes to him during the premiere of 'The Mask of Zorro' in August 1999. I remember him saying, 'Is that for real?'" she recalls.

On Jan. 12, Whingky and Betty exchanged marriage vows in a solemn ceremony with their 8-month-old son, Kurt Phillip Sebastien Olarte, suitably dressed for the occasion, in attendance. Rev. Fr. Venson "Bhing"

HE FINDS/ p.D2

LONG-HAIRED GUINEA PIGS



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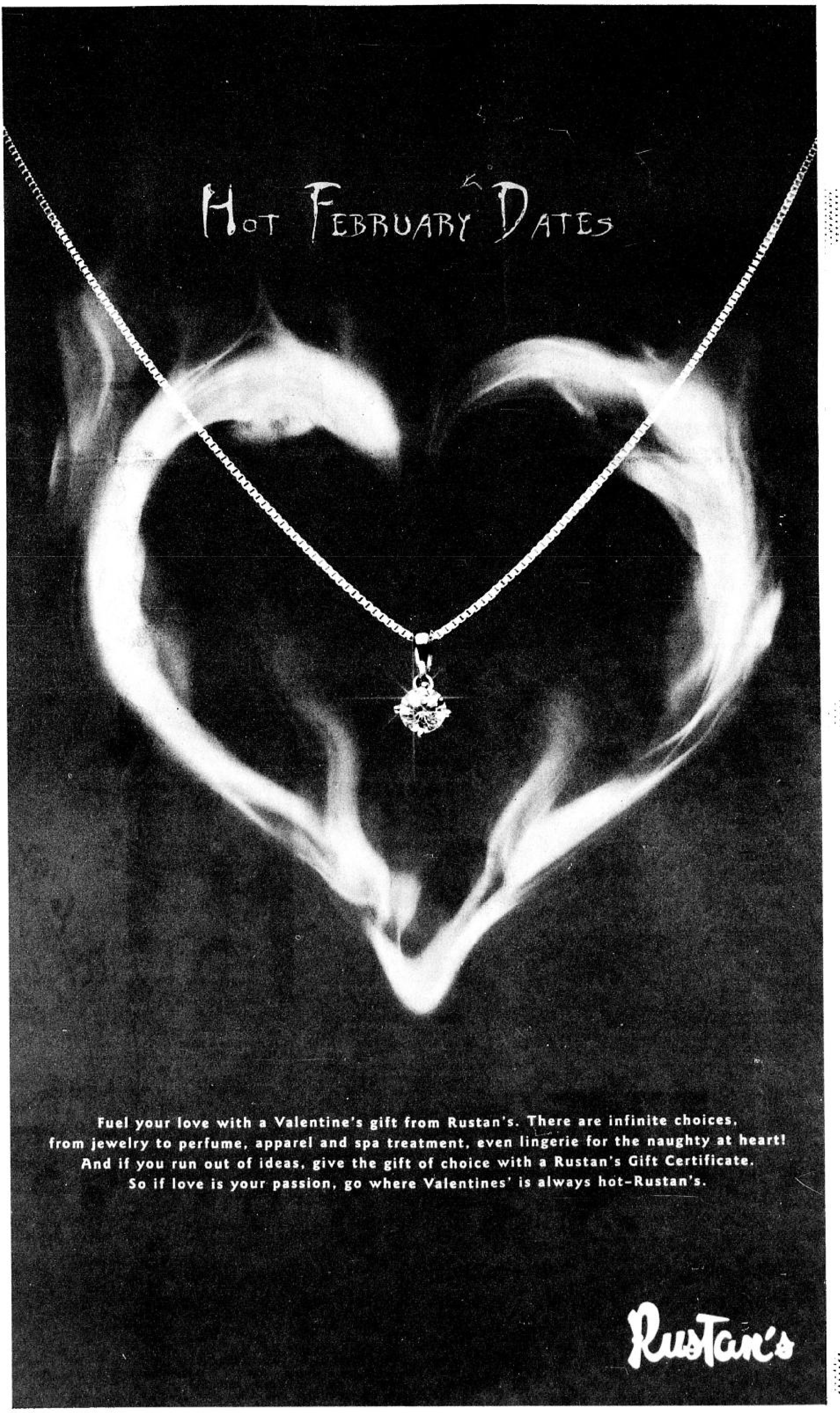

Fuel your love with a Valentine's gift from Rustan's. There are infinite choices, from jewelry to perfume, apparel and spa treatment, even lingerie for the naughty at heart! And if you run out of ideas, give the gift of choice with a Rustan's Gift Certificate. So if love is your passion, go where Valentines' is always hot–Rustan's.

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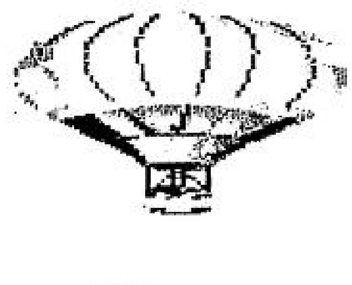

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WITH THE GROOM'S parents and son Kurt Philip Sebastien

WITH PRINCIPAL sponsors (front row, from left) Peachy Yamsuan, Doyette Reyes, Arlene Garcia, Lea Nuyda, lawyer Mirma Saruca, Dr. Gigi Reinoso, lawyer Menchu Geronimo and Mila Llorin; (back row, from left) Dr. Nonie Azarcon, Salvador Nogoy, lawyer Crisostomo Quison, Justice Camilo Quiason, lawyer Miguel Damaso, engineer Oscar Asilo, Danny Sembrano and lawyer Manuel Torres

He finds love when he loses his ID

From page D1

Valenciano of Saints Peter and Paul Navotas Parish at the Archbishop's Chapel, Villa San Miguel, Mandaluyong City officiated.

Starting the year right

The groom's parents, Pepito Olarte, INQUIRER vice president for advertising, and the former Roxani Cruz were also married in January, 25 years earlier.

"My parents are happily married, and that's what I want, too. Besides, I always believe in starting the year right so I opted to have the wedding in January," the groom says.

Whingky, 23, and his twin brother Micky, came after the eldest of the Olartes' five children.

WITH THEIR parents Rafael and Juana Cuya and Roxani and Pepito Olarte

WITH *NINONG* lawyer Miguel Damaso during the money dance

He now works as supervisor of the Robinsons Movieworld. The bride is the youngest of 11 children by Rafael and Juana Cuya of Tiwi, Albay. She is currently a secretary at the Quiason-Makalintal Law Office.

Principal sponsors at the wedding were Justice Camilo Quiason; lawyers Miguel Damaso, Manuel Torres, Crisostomo Quizon, Menchu Bello-Geronimo and Mirma Cruz-Saruca; Danny Sembrano, engineer Oscar Asilo, Salvador Nogoy, Peachy Yamsuan, Lea Nuyda, Arlene Garcia, Doyette Reyes, Mila Llorin and Dr. Gigi Baron Reinoso.

After the ceremony, a reception for about 300 guests was held at the Kamayan Restaurant on Edsa, where the newlyweds' *ninong*, Dr. Nonie Azarcon, a close friend of the groom's father, hosted a program highlighted by a money dance for luck and prosperity.

Guests included officers and staff of the INQUIRER led by chair Marixi Prieto, president Sandy Prieto-Romualdez, SVP Rene Reinoso, AVPs Kenny Nuyda and Joey Villareal, accounting head Evelyn Escueta, credit and collection chief Jimmy Ramos, Sonia Whitaker of Treasury, Becky Canlas of Billing, Budget's Bong Rabaya, Advertising's Apple Fontanilla, Len de los Reyes, Beth Andres, Cita Goyagoy, Karen Garcia and IPI circulation head Raymond Rivera. Also present were Alex Prieto and Philip Romualdez.

A second reception for the couple's families was held at the home of the Olartes later that afternoon.

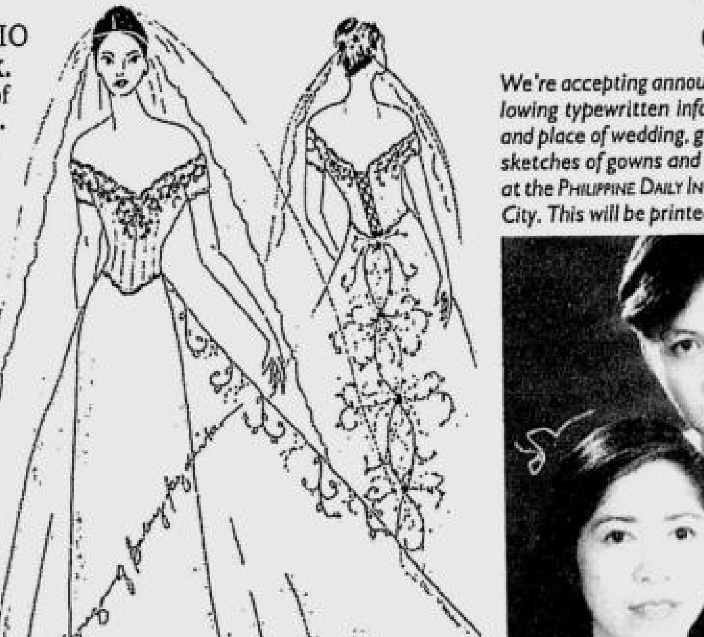
Ninong Nonie also gave the newlyweds a three-day, two-night stay at Punta Baluarte, Batangas, where they spent their brief honeymoon.

WITH SECONDARY SPONSORS Hanneycell Olarte, Sally Cruz Orpia, Wednesday Ann Olarte, Israel Olarte, Benedict Navero and Joven Rito

Milestones

We're accepting announcements of weddings and engagements. Please send the following typewritten information: names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, gown designer and other related information. Readers can send sketches of gowns and pictures of the couple at least one month before the wedding at the PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City. This will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the sender.

AGDAN-ACACIO



Frances Victoria K. Acacio, daughter of **Edgar Remigio G. Acacio** and **Ligaya K. Acacio** of San Juan, La Union, Ilocos Sur, will exchange marriage vows with **Jovencio C. Agdan Jr.**, son of **Jovencio Agdan Sr.** and **Fely C. Agdan** of Taligan, San Teodoro, Oriental Mindoro, on March 23 at the Ina ng Laging Saklolo, Tagaytay City.

The occasion will coincide with the christening of their son, **Jovencio Iñigo Agdan**.

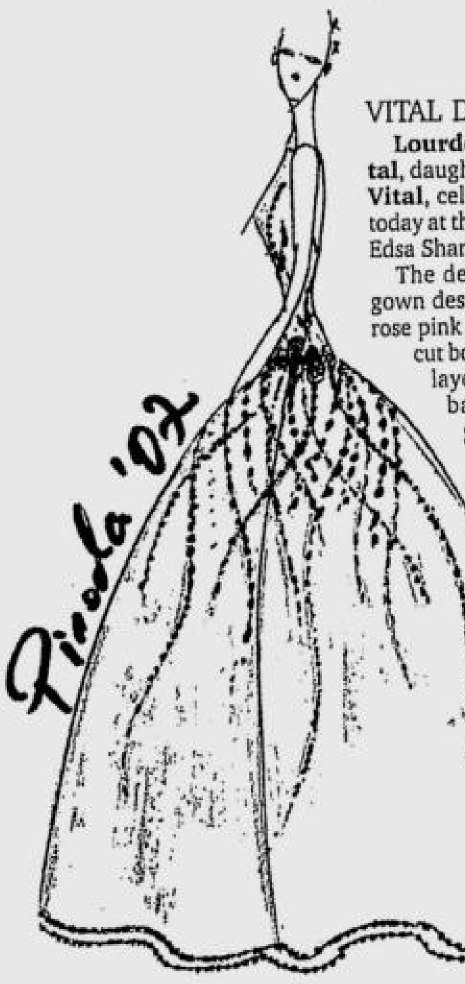
The bride will wear a two-piece gown of duchess satin material with an off-shoulder corset top, accentuated with beadwork of silver cut beads, bugles and Swarovski crystals and a detachable cathedral train designed by **Rollie H. Graza** of Balay Pagdaitan. The wedding will be coordinated by the bride's sister, Dr. **Carmela Jay K. Acacio**.

CABAN-IMPERIAL

Marilyn C. Imperial, daughter of **Edmundo** and **Redenia Imperial**, will tie the knot with **Jay Patrick D. Caban**, son of **Eusebio** and **Rizalina Caban**, on Feb. 23 at the Our Lady of Miraculous Medal Parish, Project 4, QC. Reception will be held at CVJ Clubhouse, Marikina City.

BATAC-TANDOG

Rommel Ignatius Batac, son of **Toti** and **Jezi Batac**, married **Maria Rhocelle Tandog**, daughter of **Rojer** and **Norma Tandog**, on Jan. 12 at St. Peter's Parish in Commonwealth. The bridal gown was designed by **Sinang Batac.**



VITAL DEBUT

Lourdes Marie "Doodle" Vital, daughter of Col. and Ms **Felipe Vital**, celebrates her 18th birthday today at the Palawan Ballroom of the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel.

The debutante will wear a ball gown designed by **Eric Pineda** in rose pink dupioni silk. The Sabrina-cut bodice cascades into a multi-layer full-bias skirt of blush, baby pink and fuschia organza and tulle. Beaded rose patterned appliques are mixed with handmade cabbage roses for accents. Flower-shaped Swarovski crystals in rose pink will adorn her hair.

REEVES-HERRAS

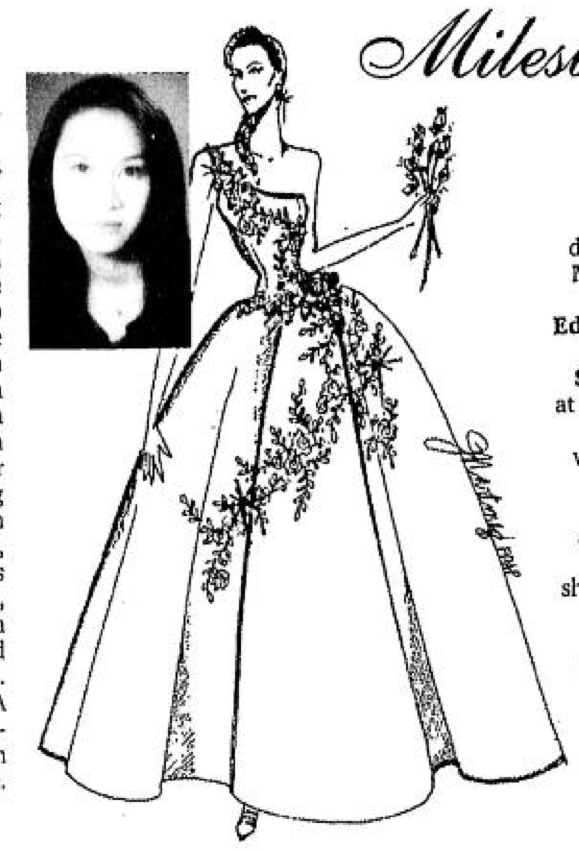
Tom Reeves and **Agnes Herras** of Texas, USA have exchanged vows on Jan. 26, at the Kingdom Hall Jehovah's Witnesses Pacita Complex 1, San Pedro Laguna. Reception was held at Café Ignacia, San Vicente, San Pedro, Laguna.

HINDANG-MALLARI

Glenda and **Dennis Hindang** tied the knot on Dec. 19 at the Saint Michael's Chapel, Fort Bonifacio, Makati City.

Photo shows the newlyweds with principal sponsors **Josefina G. Jover**, **Rosselyn Javier Tagamolila**, **Myrna Y. Benito**, **Amelia Reynoso**, **Angeli C. Cadungog**, **Grace A. de Guzman**, **Zenaida Visperas**, **Irene M. Fider**, engineer **Sebastian G. Reillo**, Lt. Col. **Wilfredo O. Ona**, Col. **Pedrito S. Cadungog**, **Jestoni Alarcon** for Mayor **Angelito C. Gatlabayan**, (Ret.) Police Director **Romeo M. Acop**, and lawyer **Alfredo Zapanta**

Milestones

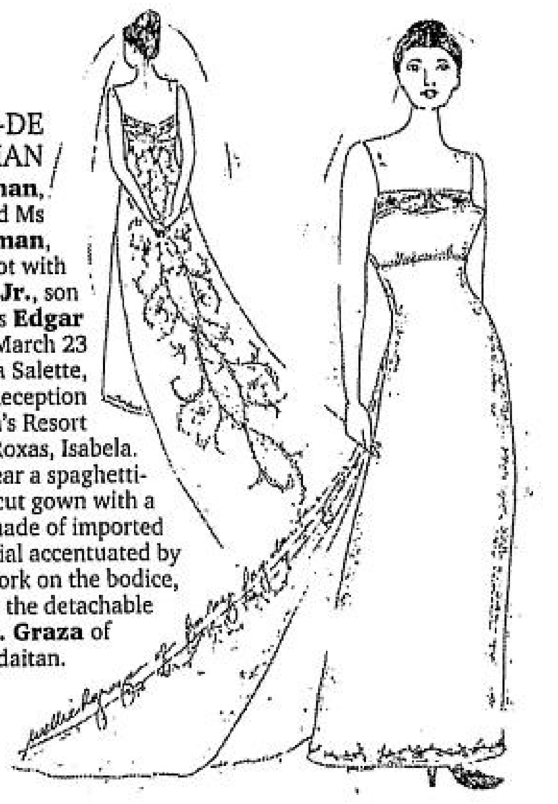


LLANES DEBUT

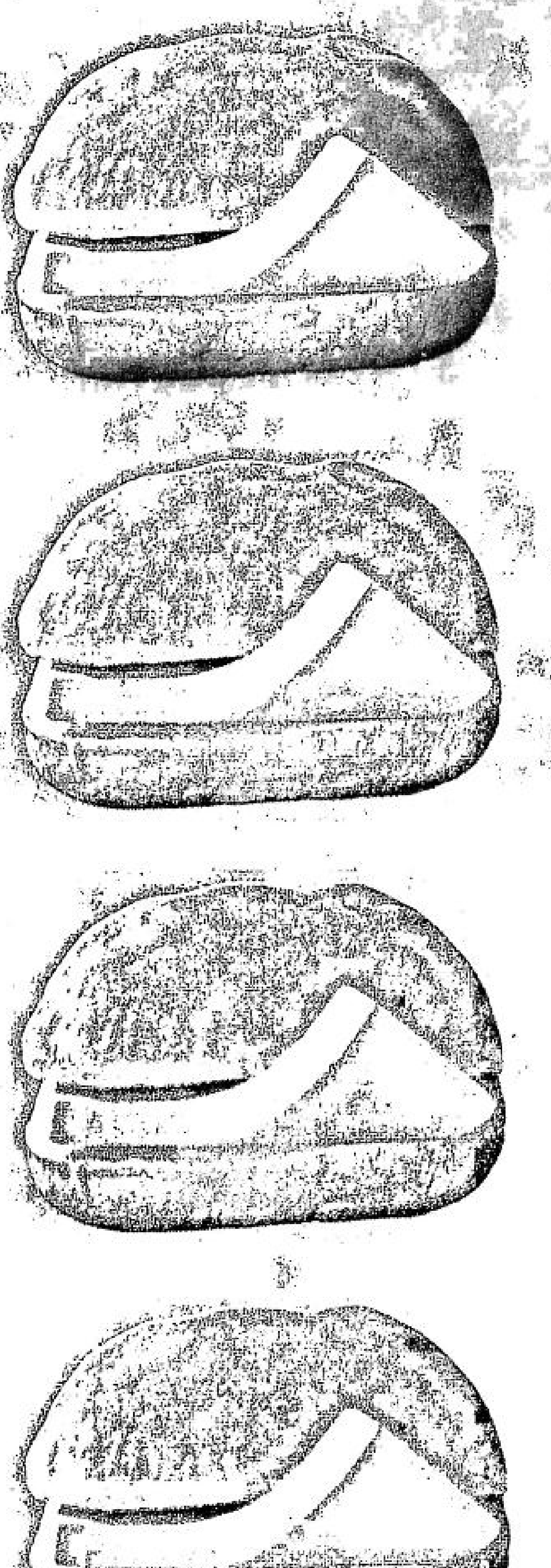
Cherry Lynn Llanes, daughter of Mr. and Ms Erning and **Cynthia Llanes**, celebrates her 18th birthday today at the Tejeros Hall of Camp Aguinaldo. The debutante wears a one-shouldered gown in blue-lilac ottoman silk appliqued with embroidered silver roses and cascading leaves, beaded with silver and lilac pearls, transparent sequins and caviar beads, created by Galatea designers **Jontie** and **Nicky Martinez**. Cherry Lynn is a BA management freshman at La Consolacion College.

SAMSON-DE GUZMAN

Susan de Guzman, daughter of Mr. and Ms **Manolo de Guzman**, will tie the knot with **Edgar E. Samson Jr.**, son of Mr. and Ms **Edgar Samson Sr.**, on March 23 at the Our Lady of La Salette, Roxas, Isabela. Reception will follow at Chua's Resort Rang-Ayan, Roxas, Isabela. The bride will wear a spaghetti-strapped, empire-cut gown with a full-biased cut made of imported shantung silk material accentuated by intricate beadwork on the bodice, hemline and on the detachable train by **Rollie H. Graza** of Balay Pagdaitan.



Masarap na apat,
barya lang ang katapat.



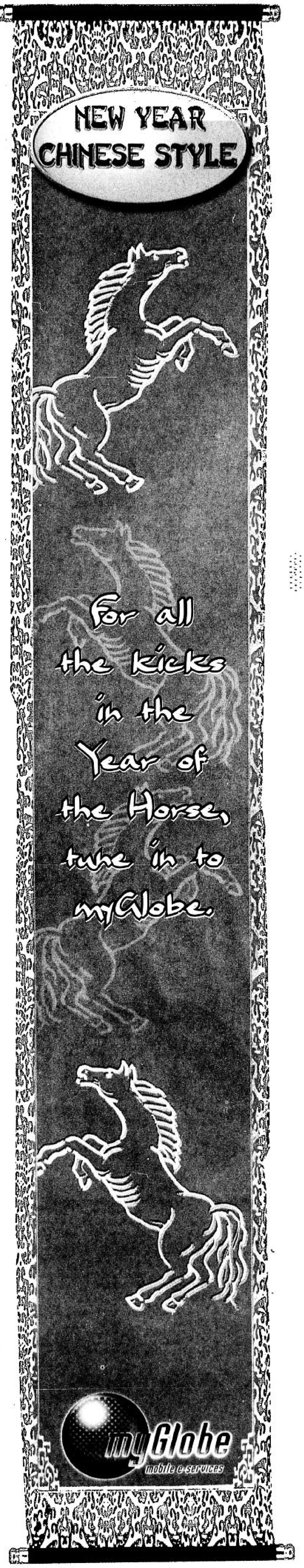
Bagong Kraft Eden Cheese Baon Pack. P8.50 lang.

Baon Pack

Tingi-tingi man ang presyo, apat na pandesal
ang katumbas! May sarap pa ng buttermilk
kaya creamy at milky ang cheese.
Mas madalas niyo nang makakain
ang inyong paboritong Kraft Eden Cheese.

KRAFT
Eden
actual size

Over sa sarap. Sobrang abot-kaya.



Why not give FTI a chance to work?

THE CONSUMER

Marietta Velasco Giron

JUST asking, how come when good things are finally taking shape at Food Terminal Inc. (FTI), powers-that-be in the administration are again replacing its recently appointed officials? These are the people we were hoping would soon restore the 60-ha underutilized complex into a centralized food trading and storage hub for Metro Manila.

It's a pity that accomplishments don't count where political whim obviously prevails. We know how the soon-to-be sacked officials have worked hard to establish link with suppliers and distributors—groups of farmers, fishermen, food processors, seed companies, dairy and meat suppliers, as well as food importers and commercial attachés of the different embassies. According to sources, the officials have already received their walking papers and may soon be replaced by favored political appointees.

In the course of covering agricultural activities for our column, we often meet Benjamin Angeles, vice president for marketing and vision development. Since his appointment last August, he and his team have been visibly forging ties with various sectors and organizing market matching strategies.

Angeles once bragged to us that his team had set up market links for fruit and vegetable growers, farmer cooperatives and dried fish suppliers. They've also established rapport with the refrigerated truckers' association and cold chain group in the country. And, no less than the agriculture department's Bureau of Post Harvest Research planned to put up its facilities at FTI and satellite storage sites all over the country.

Of late, the team is also working on a strategic partnership with the US Department of Agriculture and Trade Development Agencies for the rehabilitation of FTI, among other plans.

And if plans are carried out, a unique slaughterhouse and cold storage will be set up especially for *halal* meat processors. This will cater to the needs of Muslim consumers. Ninety percent of their meat consumption is imported.

Another good thing coming is the plan of the Organic Producers Trade Association of the Philippines to make FTI the organic harvest center in the country.

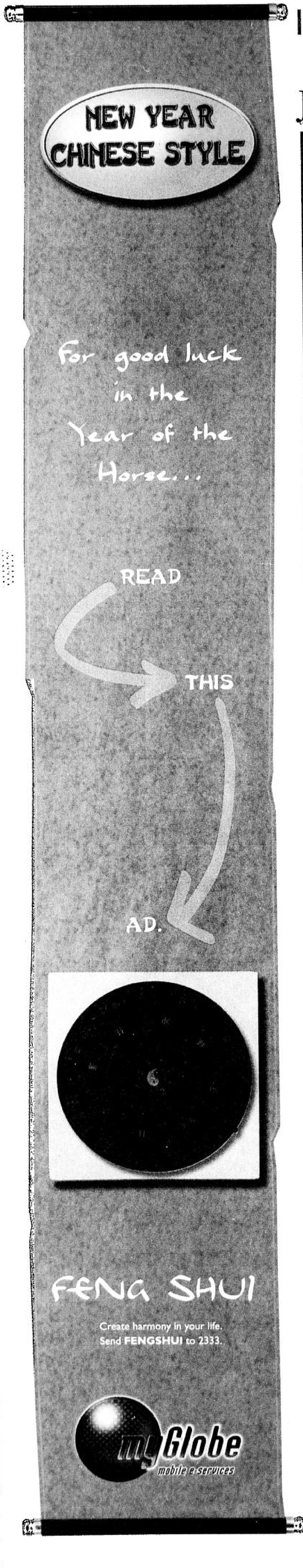
We had high hopes that when the storage and trading complex planned by Angeles and his team was finally operational, consumers would at last pay considerably less for farm produce. With red tape cut short and with cold storage facilities in place, food costs would be a lot cheaper. A kilo of radish in the wet market, Angeles pointed out, is about P30 due to endless red tape, post-production cost and lack of storage. Farmers around Laguna reportedly sell it to middlemen at less than P10 a kilo.

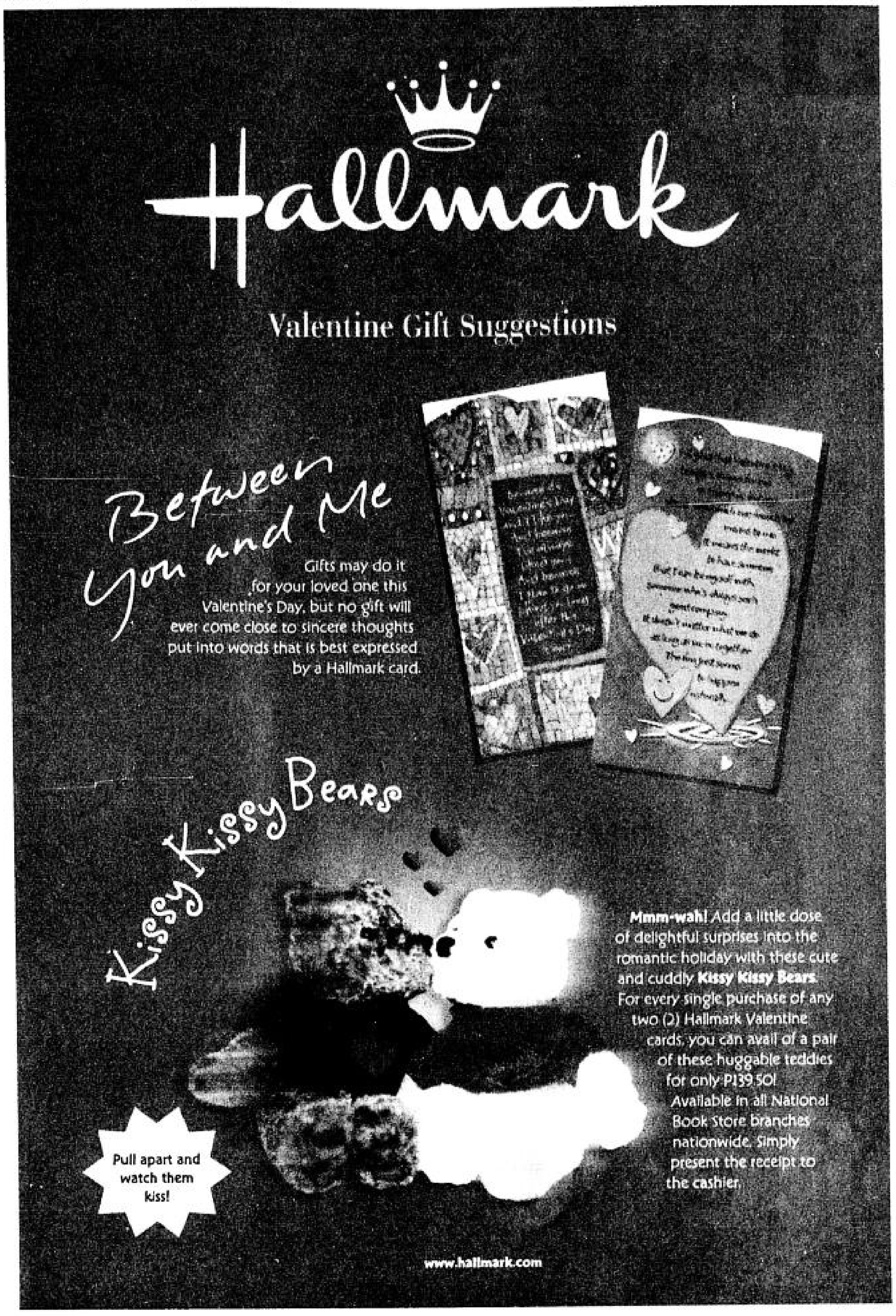
Why couldn't the government give FTI officials the support they need to finally make the 33-year-old complex the first food trading and storage center this country ever had?

Calling DECS!

Flordeliza R. Pelayo of DECS in New Washington, Aklan is calling the attention of Rolando M. Checa, information technology officer III of the DECS payroll services division in Manila. "Please stop deduction of my Educational Plan Agreement

WHY NOT/ p.D5





Gifts may do it for your loved one this Valentine's Day, but no gift will ever come close to sincere thoughts put into words that is best expressed by a Hallmark card.

Mmm-wah! Add a little dose of delightful surprises into the romantic holiday with these cute and cuddly **Kissy Kissy Bears**. For every single purchase of any two (2) Hallmark Valentine cards, you can avail of a pair of these huggable teddies for only P139.50! Available in all National Book Store branches nationwide. Simply present the receipt to the cashier.

Mini Job Fair AT Onstage GREENBELT

Nothing would afford us more pleasure than to bring you the first run of Mini Job Fair this year. The **INQUIRER'S JOB MARKET** carries on to meet the needs of our advertisers in picking the right professionals among the bunch.

On **February 18 to 19, 2002, JOB MARKET** will hold a **Mini Job Fair** at the city's latest venue in Greenbelt, Makati — Onstage.

The mini job fair offers packages which we hope you will then consider to join hands with us.

JOB MARKET JOBMarket ONLINE AYALA CINEMAS GLORIETTA 1 & 4 • GREENBELT

If you're interested to place an ad in the **February 17** issue of **Job Market**, kindly fill up this form and fax to any branch near you. ☐ Please call me ☐ Please send me more info

Name:
Address:
Company:
Tel No.:
Fax No.:

Makati Main 897-4808 • Makati Atrium 892-5578 • Kalaw 528-0213 • Cubao 912-9011 • SM Megamall 635-0220

Why not give FTI a chance to work?

From page D4

No. GEE 8305 with Code 015 which was already paid in March 2000. And I seek your assistance regarding my refund for paid educational plan agreement." Pelayo's other employment record references are: Employment No. 4023977, Division No. 098, Station 015.

Praises to PNB!

Feedback from Brian D to our column item on banking woes: "I, too, frequently send and receive remittances from the UK to the Philippines. Because I also need to have money available in the UK, I bank with a building society (nationwide). Electronic transfer of funds can indeed be slow, unreliable and expensive. ETF from UK to Philippines usually costs 20 pounds.

"Philippine National Bank in London will remit the amount to one of its online banks in the Philippines for a mere 6.50 pounds. Cash, building society cheques, banker's drafts, etc. are remitted immediately. Whenever I encounter problems, both the staff of PNB's local branch and in London are very courteous and helpful."

More praises

From Mary Ann Lopez: "The defective radio-CD player we bought last Jan. 5 was finally replaced. I would like to thank Automatic Center Tutuban for its action."

Melanie Z. Sienna-Lapore wrote: "My 5-month-old son received an interactive activity crib arch from one of his grandparents. When we installed the crib, however, we found out that one of the hanging toys was missing. I called Maxibear store at Glorietta to tell them about the missing toy. Without fuss, the lady who answered my call instructed me to go to the store for the replacement. It took a couple of weeks for us to go to the store, so we didn't expect to be treated cordially. As promised, the store replaced the whole item with a brand-new and complete set. Kudos to Maxibear!"

Journalist Blanche Gallardo wouldn't say the same thing about MC Home Depot. Last Jan. 19, Blanche and husband Bert bought an oscillating floor fan priced P1,862.25 and one transformer priced P2,629.50.

She wrote to us that two days after using the products, "smoke started to issue out of the floor fan. Incredibly, the following morning, while in use to boil water from a 110-V electric kettle, the transformer also fizzled and burned."

They demanded refund from the store for both purchases and were dismayed when, after much arguing, the store manager offered a credit voucher to settle the issue.

"The fact that both purchases proved defective within days of purchase does not exactly inspire consumer confidence. We were adamantly refused the requested refund, with both store manager and floor manager claiming that refunds are against store policy, and that customers have no alternative but to accept replacement, or settle for a credit voucher that can be used to purchase other products in the shop."

Do stores in the Philippines have the legal right to refuse refund on returned merchandise? Are they within their legal rights to compel the customer to continue to patronize the shop against the customer's will?

We talked to the store manager who indeed confirmed that it is store policy not to refund money to the complaining customer. The store does issue credit vouchers that can be used to buy other items.

The store manager requested us to inform the Gallardos that management had lifted the voucher's expiration date, and they can buy products of their choice any time.

E-mail the author at mgiron@csi.com.phi

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Super Sale. Feb. 15 - 16, nationwide.

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Per DTI NCR Permit #0156 series of 2002

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Give your sweetheart a slice of romance!
CoffeeCrunch

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For only ₱275

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NEW YEAR CHINESE STYLE

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Bridal creations for 4 different brides

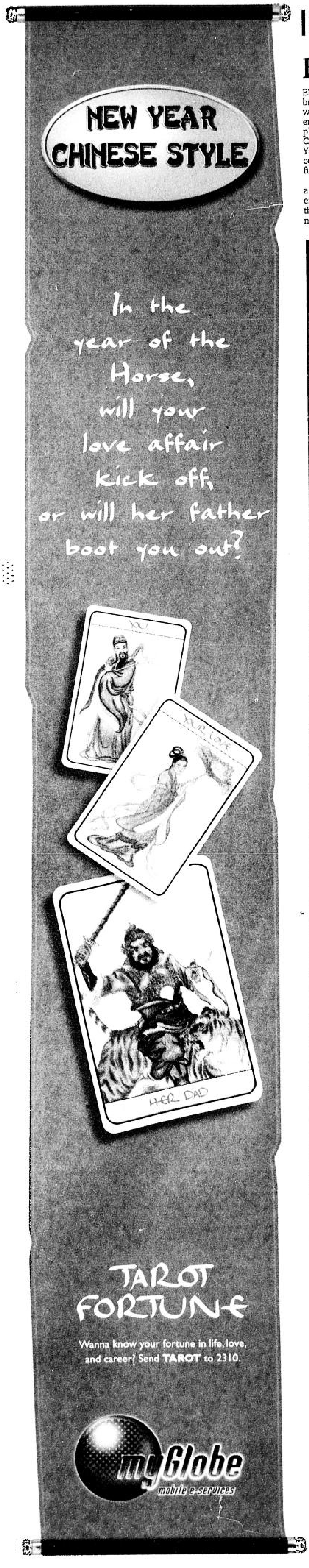
EDGAR Allan celebrates the month of hearts with a bridal exhibit of some of his latest creations recently worn by his clients. The exhibit will feature four ensemble creations for four different brides: the sophisticated, confident bride (Apple de Guzman-Consunji), the demure and quiet bride (Marjorie Yson-Muñoz), the sultry and vivacious bride (Francesca Alcala-Chamberlain) and the romantic effulgent bride (Shell Gariando-Gatlabayan).

For sophisticated bride De Guzman, Edgar created a strapless gown that featured a panel skirt sparingly embellished with starburst beadwork on the front of the skirt. The overall stark effect of the strapless gown not only complimented Apple's confident personality, but also boosts her diminutive stature. Her equally sophisticated ensemble were in russet and melon. Demure bride Yson, on the other hand, wore an Audrey Hepburn-inspired gown with a Sabrina neckline. The front and back bodice was in sheer chiffon delicately beaded with tiny pearls and sequins. Her ensemble was in delicate celadon green.

Sultry bride Alcala wore Edgar's fluid matte satin gown with a dramatic low back. Although her British groom chose the rustic Villa Escudero for the ceremony and reception, Edgar designed the modern gown to best capture Francesca's vivacious and open personality, and assert his philosophy that the personality of the bride dictates the style and concept of the gown. Her ensemble wore a subdued color in shades of lilac and purple to highlight the bride's vivaciousness because of the color contrast.

And for romantic bride Gariando, Edgar created a renaissance-inspired gown in a beaded corset bodice and bouffant skirt with a full train to best capture her beauty and curvy figure. Shell's ensemble was in equally attractive tangerine chiffon and taffeta to finish the festive mood of a December wedding.

The exhibit, sponsored by Ayala Land, will be viewed at Glorietta on Feb. 14-17, during mall hours. Maite Gregorio of Cake Concepts will provide the bridal cakes for accents.



NEW YEAR CHINESE STYLE
In the year of the Horse, will your love affair kick off, or will her father boot you out?
YOU
YOUR LOVE
HER DAD
TAROT FORTUNE
Wanna know your fortune in life, love, and career? Send **TAROT** to 2310.
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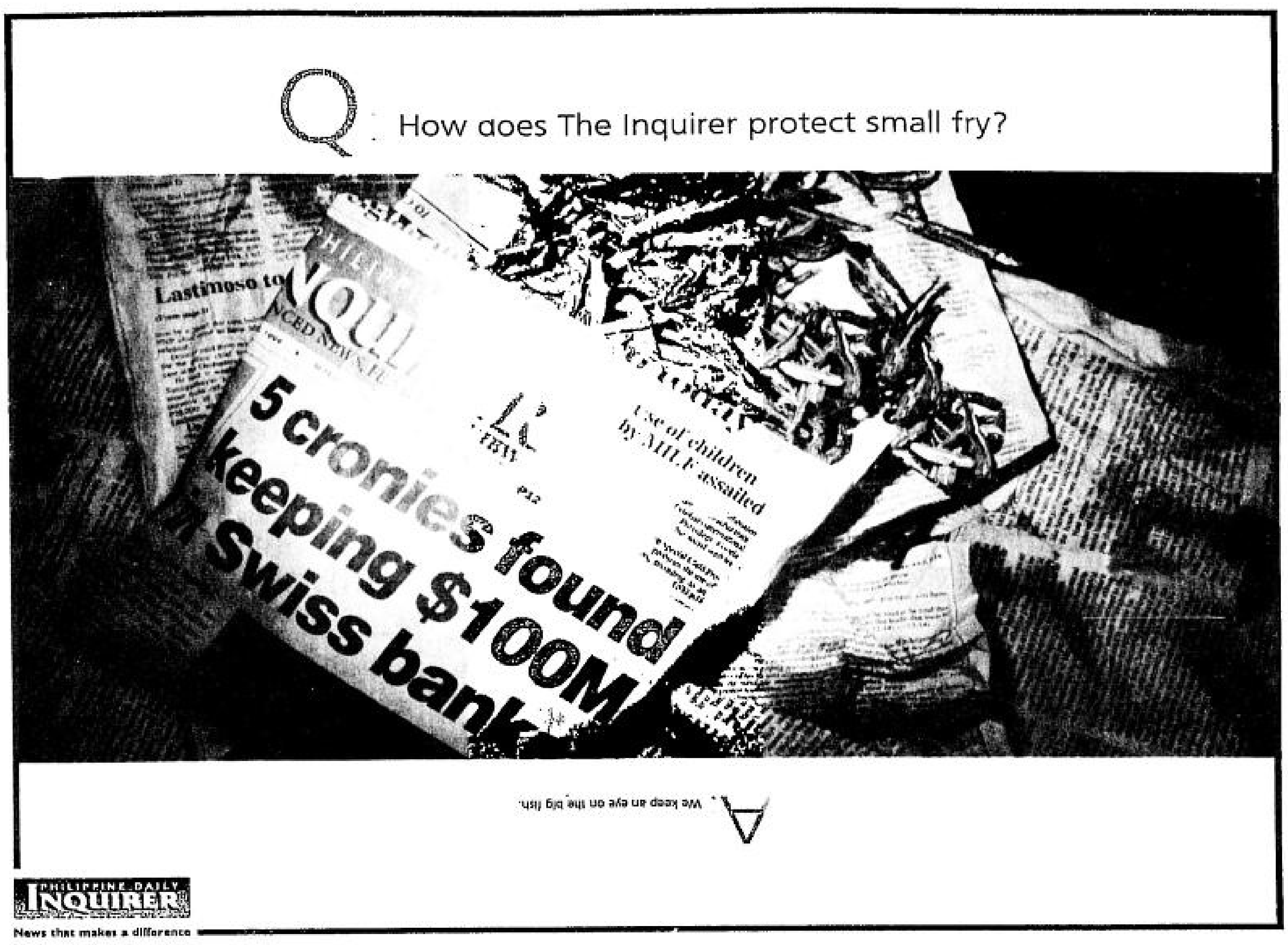
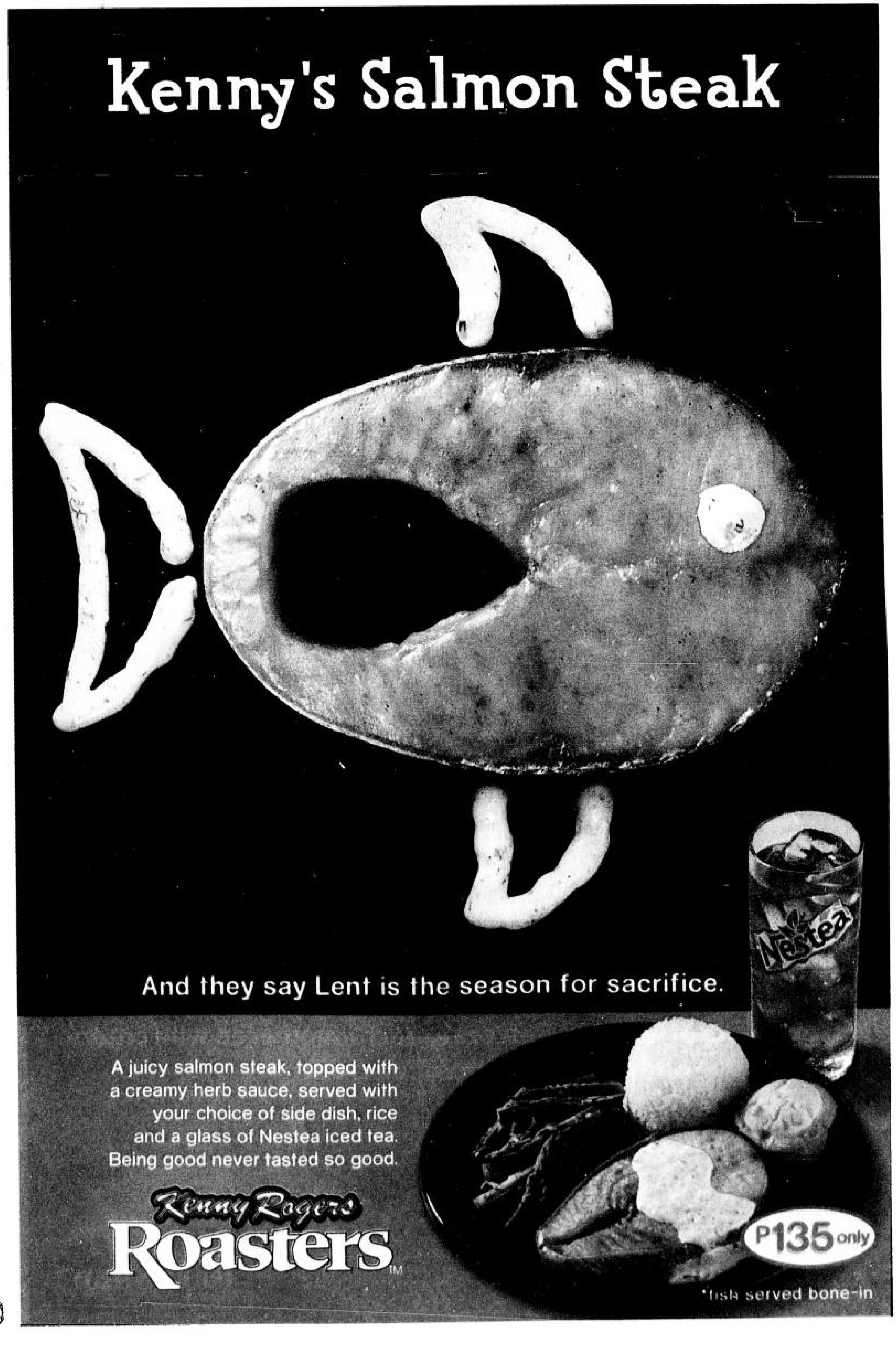


Q How aoes The Inquirer protect small fry?
5 cronies found keeping $100M in Swiss bank
A We keep an eye on the big fish.
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
News that makes a difference



Kenny's Salmon Steak
And they say Lent is the season for sacrifice.
Nestea
A juicy salmon steak, topped with a creamy herb sauce, served with your choice of side dish, rice and a glass of Nestea iced tea. Being good never tasted so good.
Kenny Rogers Roasters™
P135 only
*fish served bone-in

Showcase of men's formal wear

BERGAMO, maker of men's suits and formal wear, joins the wedding fair "May Kasal sa Forbes Park" on Feb. 16 and 17 at the Santuario de San Antonio Parish Center, Mackinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati City.

Bergamo will unveil its latest creation and collection of groom's wear and other wedding ensemble during the fair.

The exhibit opens at 10 a.m.-6 p.m. with designers and other wedding and event suppliers giving one-on-one consultation.

The event is co-presented by the Santuario de San Antonio Parish Center and is organized by Philtrade exhibits. Call 820-7879 and 820-1570.

Makati celebrates Year of the Horse

THE YEAR of the Horse will be celebrated in Makati on Feb. 11 with fireworks at 6 p.m. The event will be held at the Cash & Carry Supermarket Parking Area, Barangay Bangkal.

~~The lion, baby lion,~~ dragon and the laughing Buddha of the Pao Hong Wushu Society will perform before the lighting of fireworks.

The event will be presided by Mayor Jejomar C. Binay and Vice Mayor Ernesto Mercado. City Hall officials and employees will join them in the celebration.

The Horse is the kaleidoscope of the mind. His spirit is unconquered. He thinks, sees and moves with electric fluidity and often possesses raw sex appeal rather than good looks. Perceptive and talkative, he is very popular among friends.

St. Scho's grand homecoming

"AAAAH...Awitin Mo at Isasayaw Scho" is this year's theme for the grand homecoming celebration of St. Scholastica's College Manila, hosted by this year's silver jubilarians, HS Class '77.

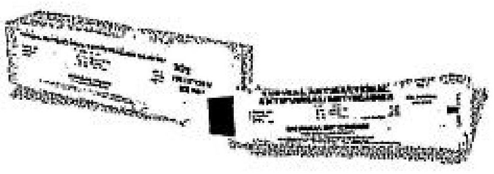
The afternoon promises an upbeat treat for homecomers as the Hyperbeat Band belts out popular '70s OPM hits at the newly refurbished St. Cecilia's Hall. Dance numbers of jubilarians will be interspersed with songs from Batch '77 divas rendering compositions of Cecile Azarcon-Inocentes, herself a Batch '77 alumna. Other guest performers include Dingdong Eduque, whose memories of St. Scho spans years of being a guest performer of the SSC High School Drama Club. Registration is at 2 p.m., followed with a Mass at 3 and a show at 5 p.m.

Kapag nag-Dermalin kaagad sa unang tanda ng skin problems, 'di na sana lumala ang problema at 'di mo na sana kailangang bumili ng mas mahal na gamot. Kaya sa unang tanda pa lang ng an-an, buni, insect bites, pimples at alipunga, mag-Dermalin kaagad. Dito, sa simula pa lang, makakatipid ka na.

Ang unang gawin, mag-Dermalin!

Benzoic Acid, Clioquinol, Sulfur, Salicylic Acid Menthol, Cetyl Alcohol

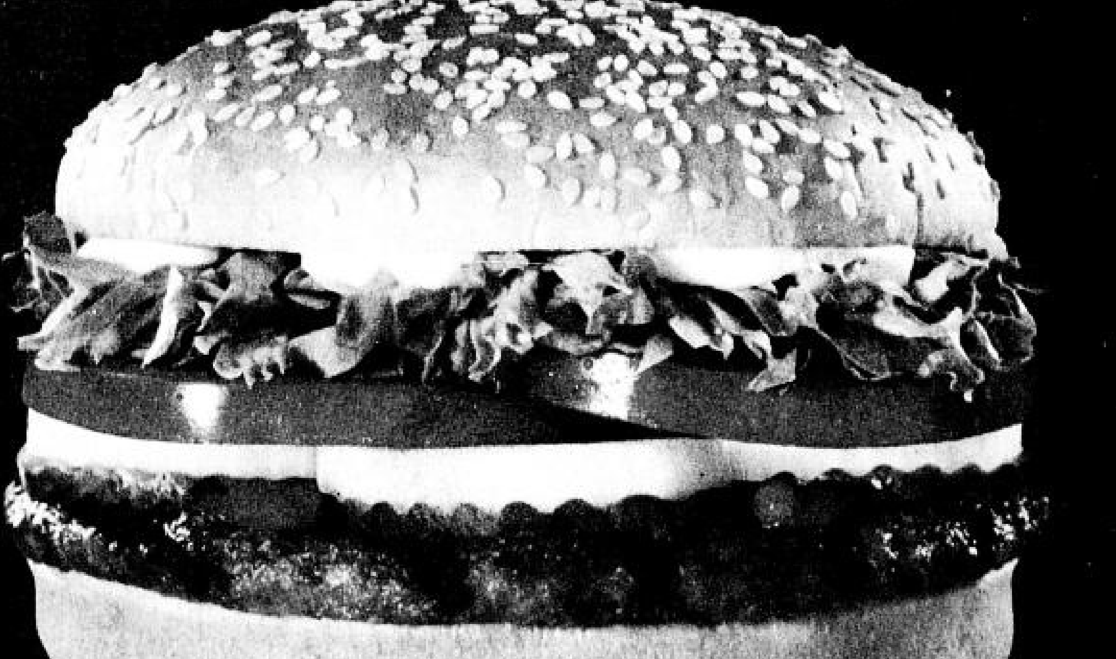
DERMALIN



Kung una pa lang, nalunasan na, 'di na lumala at gumastos pa. Kaya ang unang gawin, mag-Dermalin.

ptoms persist, consult your doctor

retail price: 5g - ₱60.10, 15g - ₱99.10, 30g - ₱160.00



WATCH THE PBA GAMES LIVE AND GET A WHOPPER® FOR FREE!

Celebrate a whoppin' game at the hardcourt with a FREE WHOPPER™ sandwich only from BURGER KING™! Any team to reach the WHOPPER™ MARK of 75 points entitles all those present in that game to a FREE WHOPPER™ sandwich! Just present your admission ticket to any BURGER KING™ restaurant to avail of your FREE WHOPPER™ sandwich. Enjoy this whoppin' deal only at BURGER KING™.

MECHANICS:

1. To join the promo, simply purchase a ticket to any PBA game during the 1st conference of the 2002 season.
2. Watch the games live and if any team reaches the WHOPPER® MARK of 75 points, all ticket holders will be entitled to a free WHOPPER® sandwich from BURGER KING®. If more than one (1) team scores 75 points on that day, only one (1) WHOPPER® sandwich will be given free for each ticket. If no team reaches 75 points for that day, no prize will be given.
3. Keep your ticket stub and present and surrender it to any BURGER KING® restaurant to claim your prize. You may claim your free WHOPPER® sandwich within 60 days from date shown on your ticket.
4. All winning tickets are subject to authentication and validation by BURGER KING® personnel.
5. Prizes are transferable, so long as the bearer has a valid ticket subject to the above conditions.
6. Complimentary ticket-holders are disqualified from joining the promo.
7. Promo coverage is in Metro Manila only. Promo period is from February 10 to April 30, 2002.

WHOPPER® MARK 75 POINTS

IN COOPERATION WITH PBA

BURGER KING

It just tastes better®

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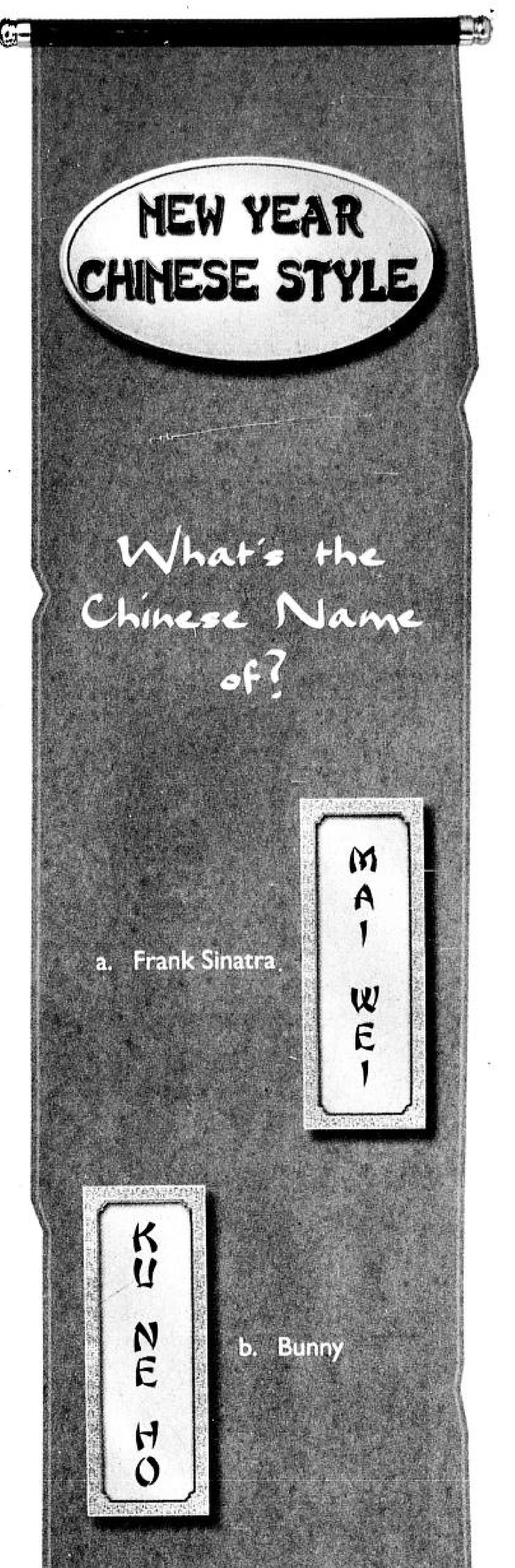

CHINESE NAME GENERATOR

Find out how your name translates to Chinese.
Send **CHINESE firstname lastname year of birth** to 2310.
Ex: **CHINESE alexis ragos 1976**

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Sunday LIFESTYLE
Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

For feedback, text us at **(0918)917-5026** or email us at **lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph**

WHO is who? That's Ronnie Concepcion on the left and twin brother Joecon on the right

Twins mark two milestones

An elegant dinner celebrated the 71st birthday of twins Joecon and Ronnie Concepcion and the birth centennial of their father, Jose Sr.

By Donnie C. Ramirez
Contributor

THEY were identical twins born 10 minutes apart on Dec. 29, 1931, the first-born of the couple Jose Navarro Concepcion Sr. and Herminia Santos-Concepcion. Born very close to New Year, there was much jubilation.

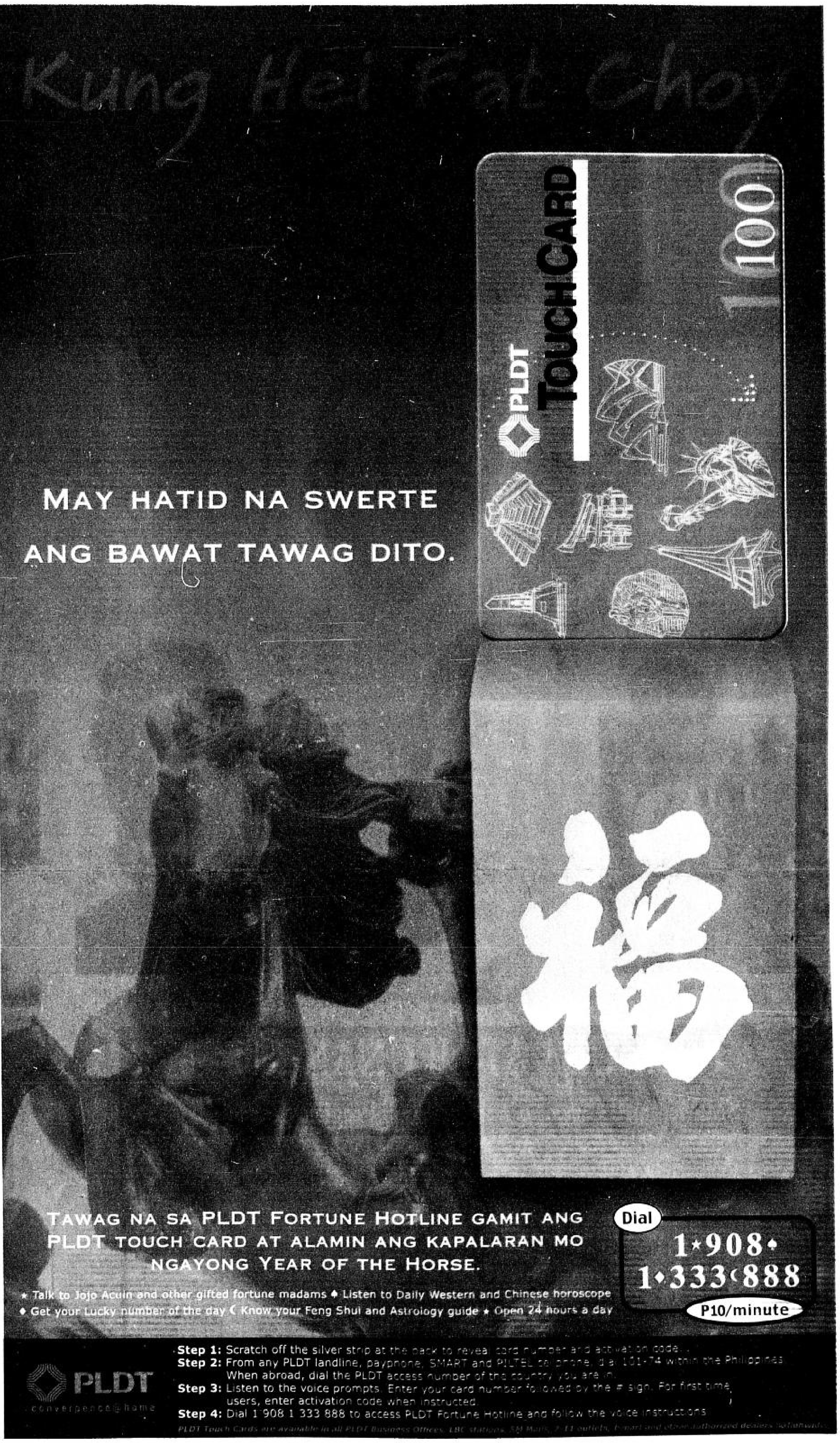
The elder of the twins was named Jose Jr., while the younger was christened Raul. Today, 71 years later, they are better known as Joecon (or JC to his business associates) and Ronnie, two titans of the country's business and industry.

Joecon is the idealist of the twins—and the more politically inclined. He served as secretary of trade and industry in President Cory Aquino's Cabinet and actively participated in the 1971 Constitutional Convention. He is

TWINS/ p.E3

JOECON and wife Marivic (nee Araneta)

RONNIE Concepcion and wife Menchu (nee De las Alas)



Kung Hei Fat Choy

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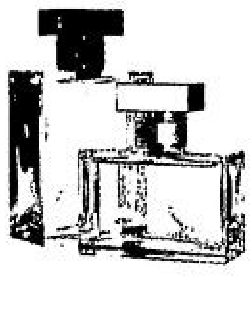
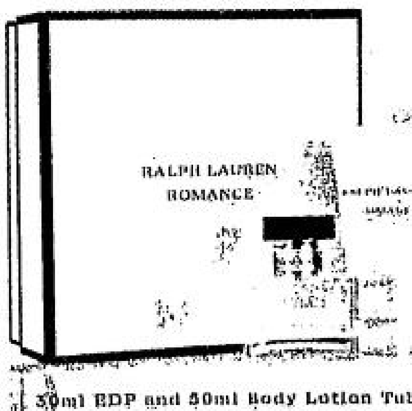
FRAGRANCE FOR MEN AND WOMEN



ONLY FOUR DAYS TILL VALENTINE'S DAY

Romance Valentine's Gift Set



30ml EDP and 50ml Body Lotion Tube

Available in the following RALPH LAUREN counters: **Rustan's** Makati • Shangri-la • Alabang • Harrison Plaza • Cubao • Cebu • **SM** North Edsa • Megamall • Cubao • Fairview • Bacoor • Sta. Mesa • Makati • Harrison Plaza • Las Piñas • **Landmark** • **Robinsons** Galleria • Ermita

Gifts to make Valentine special

ROBINSONS Department Store offers suggestions to make your Valentine shopping easier and more convenient.

For the important man in your life (if you are a woman), reasonably priced neckties, cufflinks or a great cologne like Romance by Ralph Lauren will surely be appreciated.

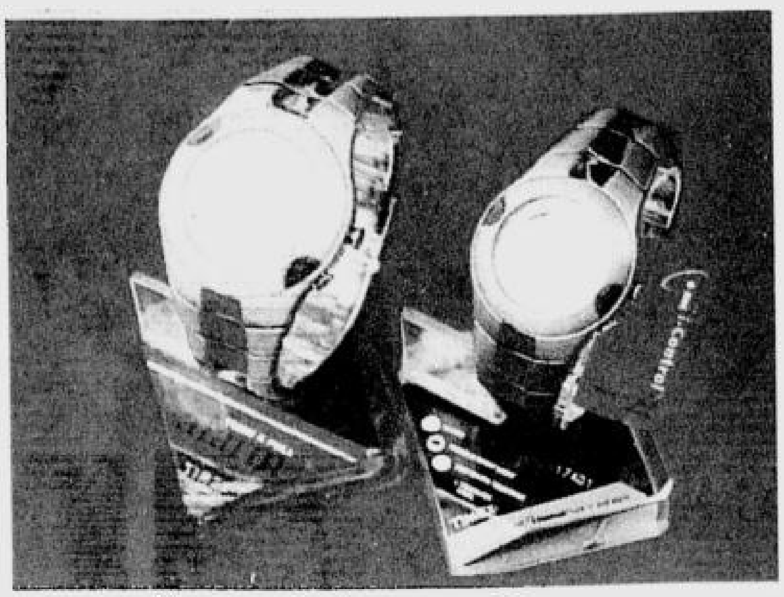
If you are a man, pamper the woman in your life with Sentiment by Escada Perfume or Romance by Ralph Lauren for Women. Body Fantasies scented candles are also great choices, as well as huggable heart-shaped throw pillows.

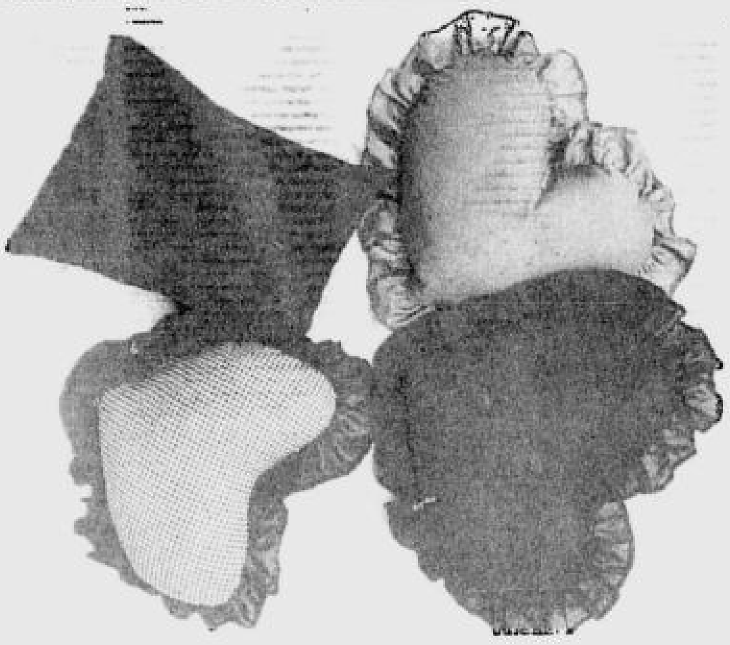
You may also create your own bath and body gift pack from an array of soaps, lotions and other hair and body treatments available at the Health and Beauty Aids section.

Or get him/her a timeless Timex watch or, for the ultra-hip and modern, a Philip Starck watch.

Since Valentine's Day is not just for lovers, RDS also offers gift items for everyone. Check out assorted figurines, mugs, bags, stuffed toys and clothes, among others. Or just give your loved ones RDS gift certificates.

RDS branches are located at Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Place Manila, Novaliches, Imus. Cebu, Bacolod and Iloilo, Robinsons Metro East, Robinsons Starmills Pampanga, Tutuban Center, Starmall Shaw, Metropolis Star Alabang, Waltermart Sta. Rosa and Gen. Trias.





Win a heart with timeless gift

Win somebody's heart or make him/her love you more with the Timex Valentine Combo. Two elegant Timex timepieces come in a special Valentine package at an attractive rate. With five pairs to choose from, express your timeless love through Timex watches.

For the very young at heart

ALL kids are invited to a special workshop on "How to Make Valentine Paper Heart Baskets" to be conducted by Kids @ Art at Dreamscape, 3-5 p.m. today. Cute and cuddly Dreamscape mascot Biggles the Bear and Dream Town mascots Princess Sonia, Elmer the Elf and Timmy will be there and on every weekend in February.

Enjoy more rides with the "Two for 2002" promo when the amusement parks of Robinsons malls observe "Love @ Dreanscape & Dream Town" this month. Get one Per Ride ticket free for every puchase of one Kiddie Dream Day or a single purchase of Five Per Ride tickets at Dreamscape, 4/L Robinsons Galleria, and for every purchase of one Per Ride ticket at Dream Town, 3/L Robinsons Place Manila.

Call the Marketing Department at 636-2911 or 633-7641 to 90 locals 191-193 or 196.

Get into a romantic mood

Lush offers a step-by-step plan on how to get into a romantic mood for those love-filled days of the heart month.

Start with a relaxing bath using Crumble Lush's new look Amandopondo Bubble Bar (P135/100 g) with its single rosebud. The rose, lemon and orange scent makes Amandopondo pretty irresistible.

Apply Lush's new look H'suan Wen Hua prewash conditioner (P375/225 g) for tempting tresses. The softening banana, avocado, fresh egg, olive oil and watercress combat brittleness while balsamic vinegar and rosemary oil make the hair shine.

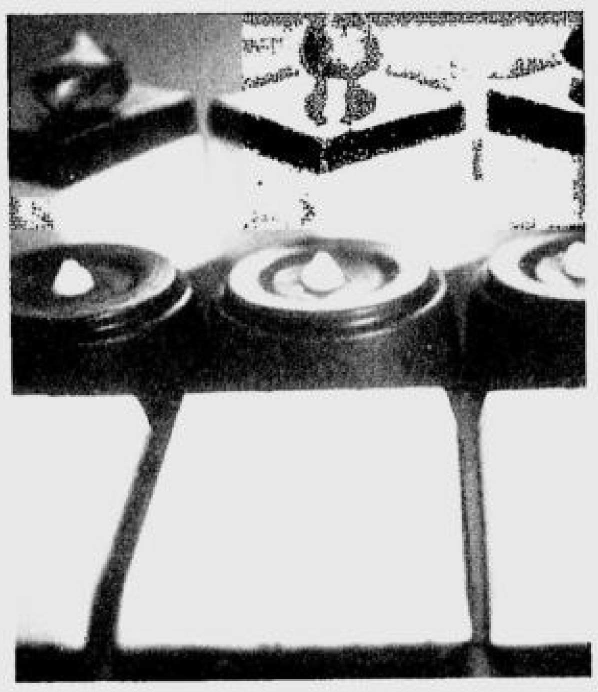
Lush's Dream Cream (P575/250 g), applied from head to toe, leave the limbs feeling sexy and smooth to the touch.

A light coating of the jasmine-scented Lush's Silky Underwear Dusting Powder (P325/100 g) all over leaves the skin silky to the touch.

Lush's Lite Lip Balm (P195) guarantees no chapped lips and produces "lush-iously" kissable lips.

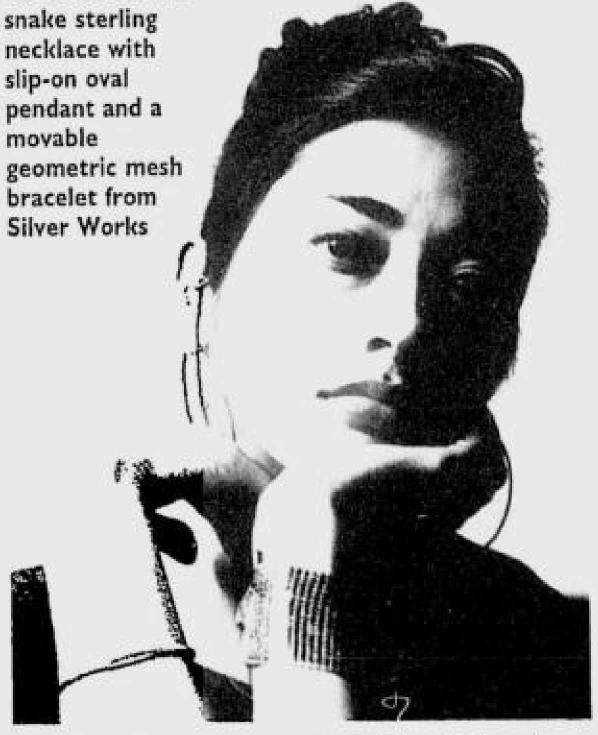
Cap the sensual experience with any of Lush's Massage Bars: Lush's After 8:30, Chocolala or Black Magic (P245).

Lush boutiques are at Glorietta 4 Makati and Power Plant Mall, Rockwell.



SILVER Works has these flat, stackable, diamond-cut bangles.

MULTI-STRAND snake sterling necklace with slip-on oval pendant and a movable geometric mesh bracelet from Silver Works



OVERSIZED hoops and snake scale, soft bracelets from Silver Works

PELIKULA AT LIPUNAN 2002

SM Megamall Cinema 6, February 13-19 Program Schedule

	Feb 13 Wed	Feb 14 Thu	Feb 15 Fri	Feb 16 Sat	Feb 17 Sun	Feb 18 Mon	Feb 19 Tue
11am	MFI Shorts	Emerging Filmmakers	Kodak Winners	Emerging Filmmakers	Animation Program	Rust: Experimental Shorts	New 35MM Shortss
1:30pm	Nick Deocampo's Ynang Bayan	Mike De Leon's Sister Stella L.	Chito Roño's Eskapo	Rust: Experimental Shorts	Animation Program	Newly-Restored MN Carmen Rosales	Newly-Restored Seksing-Seksi
4pm	Marilou Diaz-Abaya's Brutal w/ Sari Dalena's Memories of A Forgotten War	Lupita Kashiwahara's Minsa'y Isang Gamu- Gamu	Ditsi Carolino's Masakit sa Mata & Mes De Guzman's Batang Trapo	Neil Daza's Disyembre & Avic Ilagan's Sowing Seeds	NIDA TRIBUTE Eddie Garcia's Magdusa Ka		Gerry De Leon's Sanda Wong
6:30pm	OPENING FILM Alejandro Iñarritu's AMORES PERROS	Newly-Restored: JACK AND JILL	Aureaus Solito's Basal Banar	New 35MM Short Films & Music Videos	Ading Fernando's John and Marsha	Guisseppe Tornatorre's Malena	SPECIAL SCREENING Sari Dalena's Memories of a Forgotten War and Raymond Red's Sakay
9pm		Micheal Rymer's PERFUME	The Beatles in A HARD DAY"S NIGHT	Roxlee's Album Launch & Cesar Asar	F.H. Constantino's Waray-Waray	Apchatpong Weerasethakul's Mysterious Objects At Noon	CLOSING FILM Julian Schnabel's BEFORE NIGHT FALLS

*titles are subject to change w/o prior notice

OPENING FILM:
Alejandro Iñarritu's
Cannes-winning
AMORE PERROS
only on February 13
SM Megamall ,6:30 pm

The Controversial GAY FILM
"BEFORE NIGHT FALLS"
February 19, 9pm

Live it UP!
SKYFILMS
TODAY

ika-9
PELIKULA
LIPUNAN
2002

Show love with pizzazz

ADD pizzazz to romance this Valentine's Day with fun offerings from Designer Blooms. The home and office floral accent shop sells fresh roses just for the Day of Hearts and with it, especially lovable items: cuddly teddy bears, fancy ribbons, Italian crepe bouquet wraps, pop-up cards and heart-shaped balloons.

Isa Garcia, who heads the fresh flowers section of the multiawarded store chain, said these items, exclusive to Designer Blooms, are meant to make this year's Valentine more memorable.

"Red roses will be gone in a few days, but a teddy bear is a keepsake forever," she said. "That definitely shows love."

Romantic combinations range from simple bouquets in striped floral wraps to floral arrangements festooned with balloons, colored ribbons and a teddy bear. Imported Italian crepe floral papers are fashioned into origami-like wraps or long-stem roses are placed in striped candy boxes.

Designer Blooms can be found in all popular shopping malls in and around Metro Manila. Advanced orders can be made on Feb. 11 and 12.

JOSIE Lichauco, Kit Zobel, Peachy Concepcion and Lizzie Zobel

ALEX Prieto, Monina Hechanova, Marixi Prieto, Dr. Manuel Hechanova and Vic Reyes (standing)

BEA Zobel, Sen. Loren Legarda-Leviste, Menchu Concepcion and Finance Secretary Lito and Kim Camacho

Twins mark two milestones

From page E1

also one of the founders of the National Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel), a nongovernment organization that aims to safeguard the integrity of the ballot and ensure free and honest elections. He is chair emeritus of RFM, the family's food manufacturing and processing arm.

Ronnie is more pragmatic and conservative. As he told a journalist, "When I start a project, I look at the bottom-line. My brother starts a project with a sense of mission, and it must be pioneering."

Ronnie is on top of Concepcion Industries' consumer durables conglomerate. He is chair and CEO of Concepcion Industries, Concepcion Carrier Air-conditioning Company (CCAC) and Concepcion Appliance Corporation. He is also the chair of the militant Oil and Consumer Price Watch.

Joecon is married to Marivic Araneta, daughter of educator Salvador Araneta, the founder of Feati and Araneta Universities. They have eight children. The eldest, Joey, is now running RFM. Joecon, who has a degree in agriculture from Araneta University, had a brief stint as a seminarian, until he discovered that his true vocation was in the corporate world.

Ronnie is married to Menchu de las Alas, youngest daughter of Antonio de las Alas. They have four sons and one daughter. Ronnie attended De la La Salle University, where he earned his accounting diploma. He took up his masters in business administration at the University of California in Los Angeles.

The Concepcion twins' children are all involved in the family's various enterprises.

A fortnight ago, the Concepcion twins took center stage at a dinner-reception organized by their respective wives and families. Held at the Rizal Ballroom of the Makati Shangri-La Hotel, the event was a veritable gathering of business eagles and political luminaries, as well as Manila's old money.

Joecon and Ronnie were marking their 71st birthday, but there was another reason for the celebration. The clan was also paying tribute to the twins' late father, Jose Sr., whose birth centennial was observed last Feb. 6.

IMELDA Cojuangco, Fr. Patricio H. Lim and Zita Feliciano

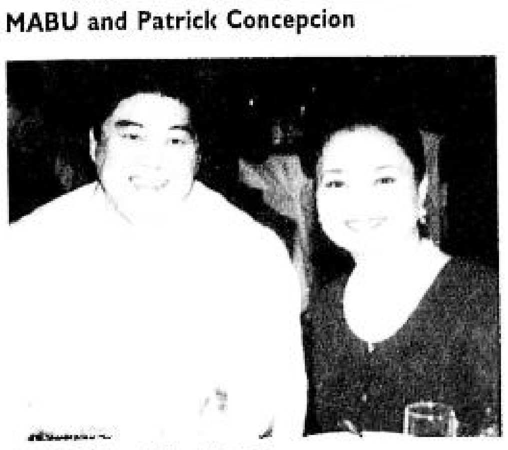
VICKY and Joe Zubiri with Carol Masibay Garcia

SEN. Manny Villar

SENATE President Franklin and Mila Drilon

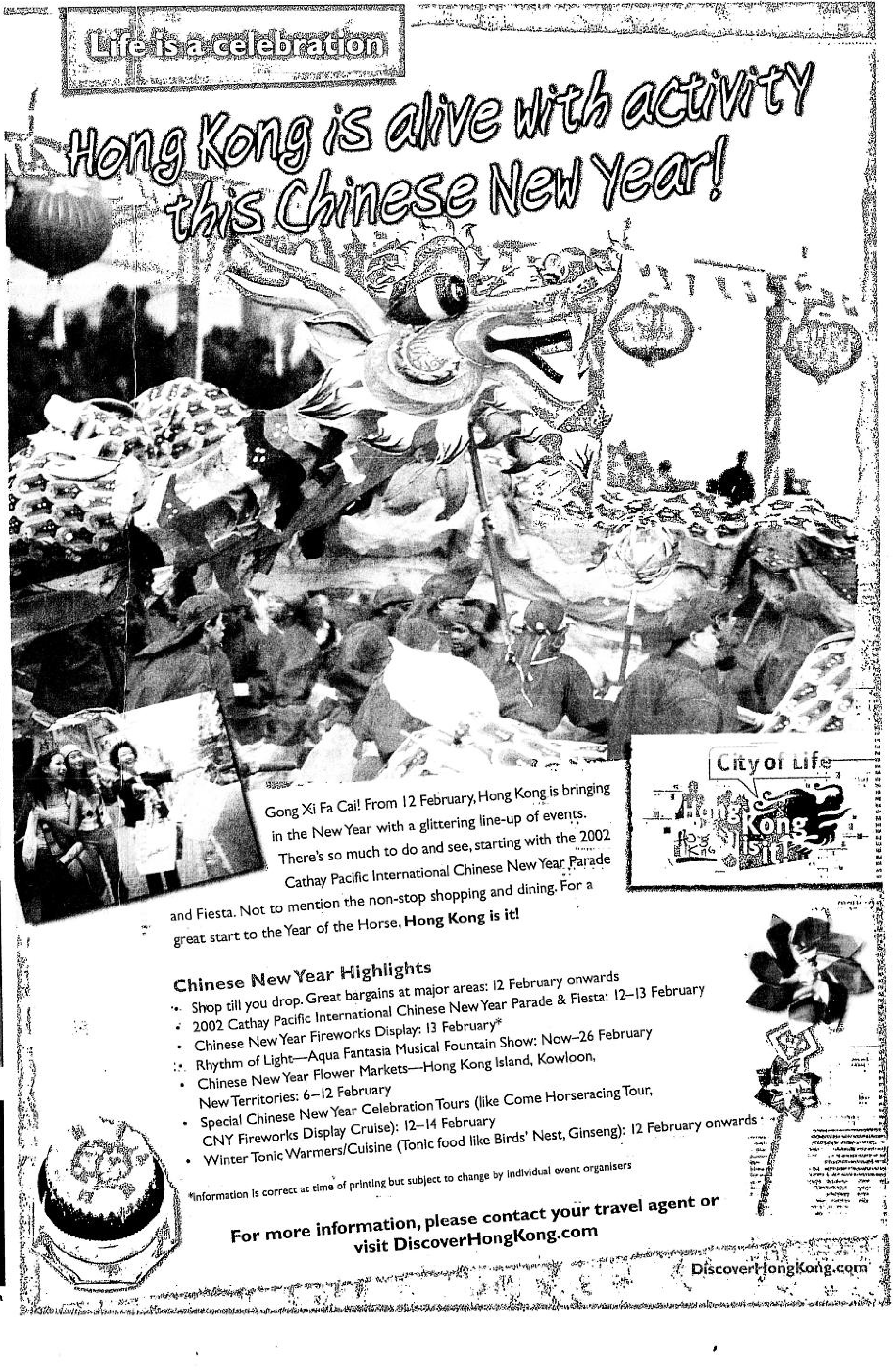
ROBIE and Maling Concepcion

MABU and Patrick Concepcion



ERNEST and Josie Rufino

RUBY Roxas, Francisco Delgado and Lorna Laurel



Gong Xi Fa Cai! From 12 February, Hong Kong is bringing in the New Year with a glittering line-up of events. There's so much to do and see, starting with the 2002 Cathay Pacific International Chinese New Year Parade and Fiesta. Not to mention the non-stop shopping and dining. For a great start to the Year of the Horse, **Hong Kong is it!**

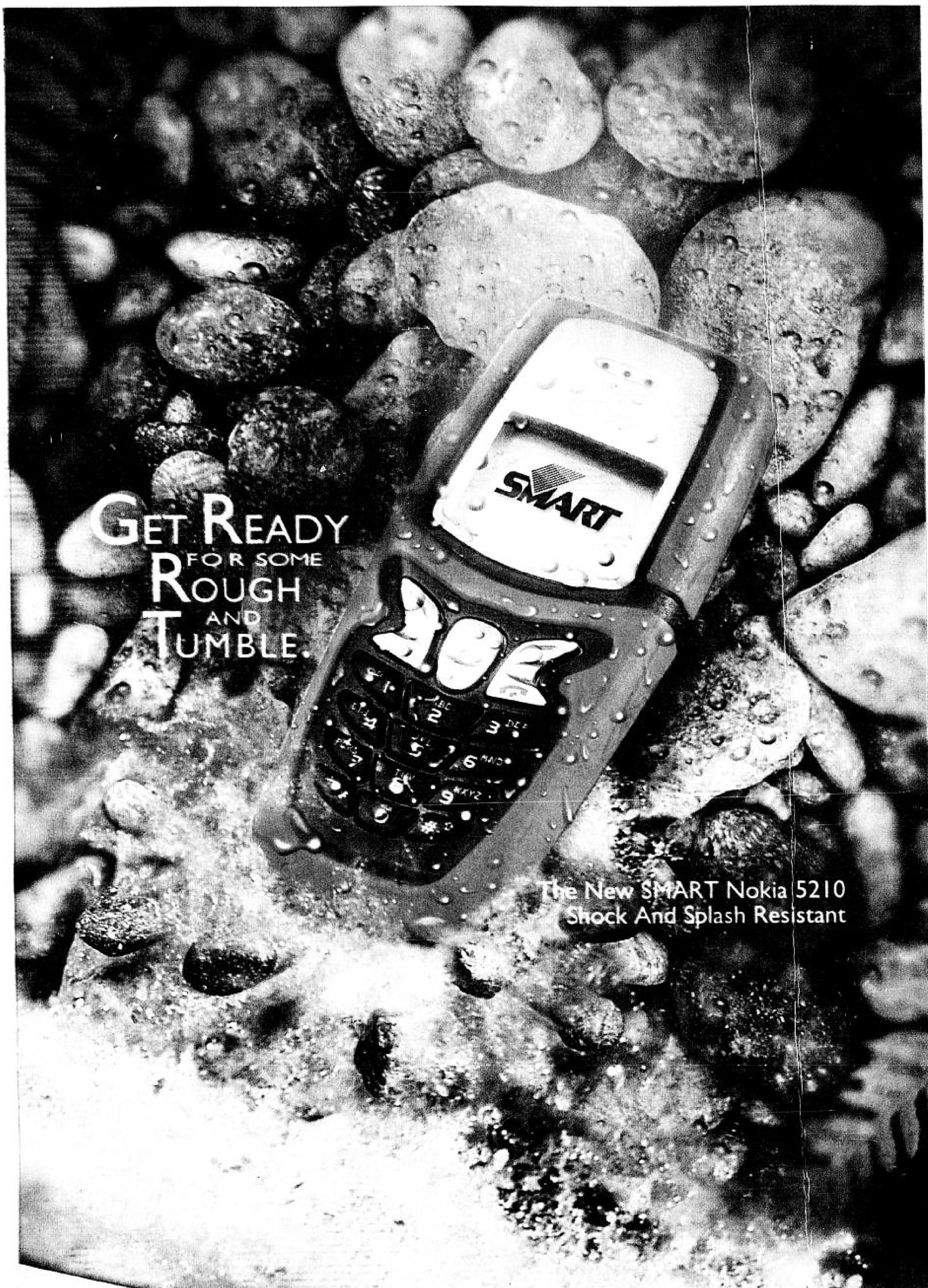
Chinese New Year Highlights

- Shop till you drop. Great bargains at major areas: 12 February onwards
- 2002 Cathay Pacific International Chinese New Year Parade & Fiesta: 12–13 February
- Chinese New Year Fireworks Display: 13 February*
- Rhythm of Light—Aqua Fantasia Musical Fountain Show: Now–26 February
- Chinese New Year Flower Markets—Hong Kong Island, Kowloon, New Territories: 6–12 February
- Special Chinese New Year Celebration Tours (like Come Horseracing Tour, CNY Fireworks Display Cruise): 12–14 February
- Winter Tonic Warmers/Cuisine (Tonic food like Birds' Nest, Ginseng): 12 February onwards

*Information is correct at time of printing but subject to change by individual event organisers

For more information, please contact your travel agent or visit DiscoverHongKong.com

DiscoverHongKong.com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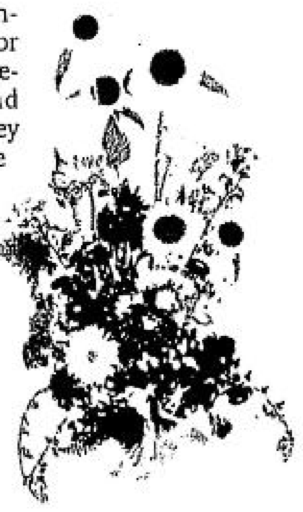
Valentine blossoms fresh from the farm



FRESH roses imported from Ecuador and arranged in specially made round boxes in Laura Ashley floral prints are the highlights of The Flower Farm's blossom offerings this season of love and romance. These classic Valentine favorites are shipped within the day they were gathered from the farms so you're sure to get them fresh.

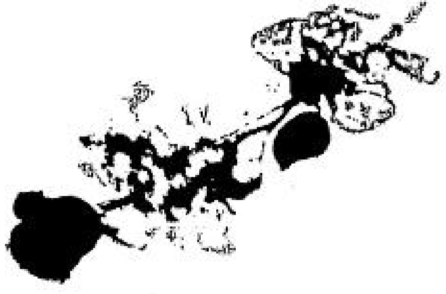
Pick from any of the rose colors of red, yellow and two shades of orange and let The Flower Farm do the trimmings of your choice. A perfect dozen is sure to captivate anyone's heart.

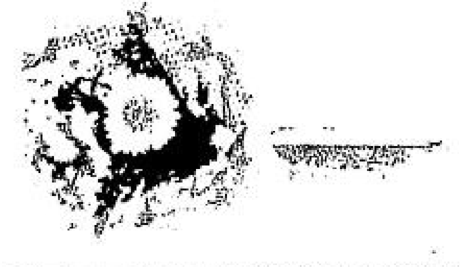
A simple yet romantic choice is The Flower Farm's "Classic Valentine Rose," a single long-stemmed rose adorned with a special bow—simple elegance that says a lot.

The Flower Farm also offers other flower varieties—carnations, sunflowers, mums—fresh as the day they were harvested in Tagaytay.

The other flower varieties may also come in beautifully done and special spring or gerbera arrangements, in your choice of a glass or a terracotta vase. Bouquet wraps come in three different sassy shades of orange, pink and green.

Order a week ahead to have better choices of the many flower varieties. The Flower Farm also accepts deliveries and orders by phone or by fax. Call 815-6665 to 68 (Rada Street, Makati), 633-7549/635-00131/635-0093 (Ortigas), 809-4612/809-4609 (Alabang) and 752-7206 (Glorietta).





Need advice about Shopping? Money? Travel? Bills Payment? Teens?

Get Express Advice tonight from 6:30 - 10:00 in all major TV and cable channels.

Channels 2, 5, 7, 13, 23, Sky Lifestyle, Sky AXN and Sky CNN.

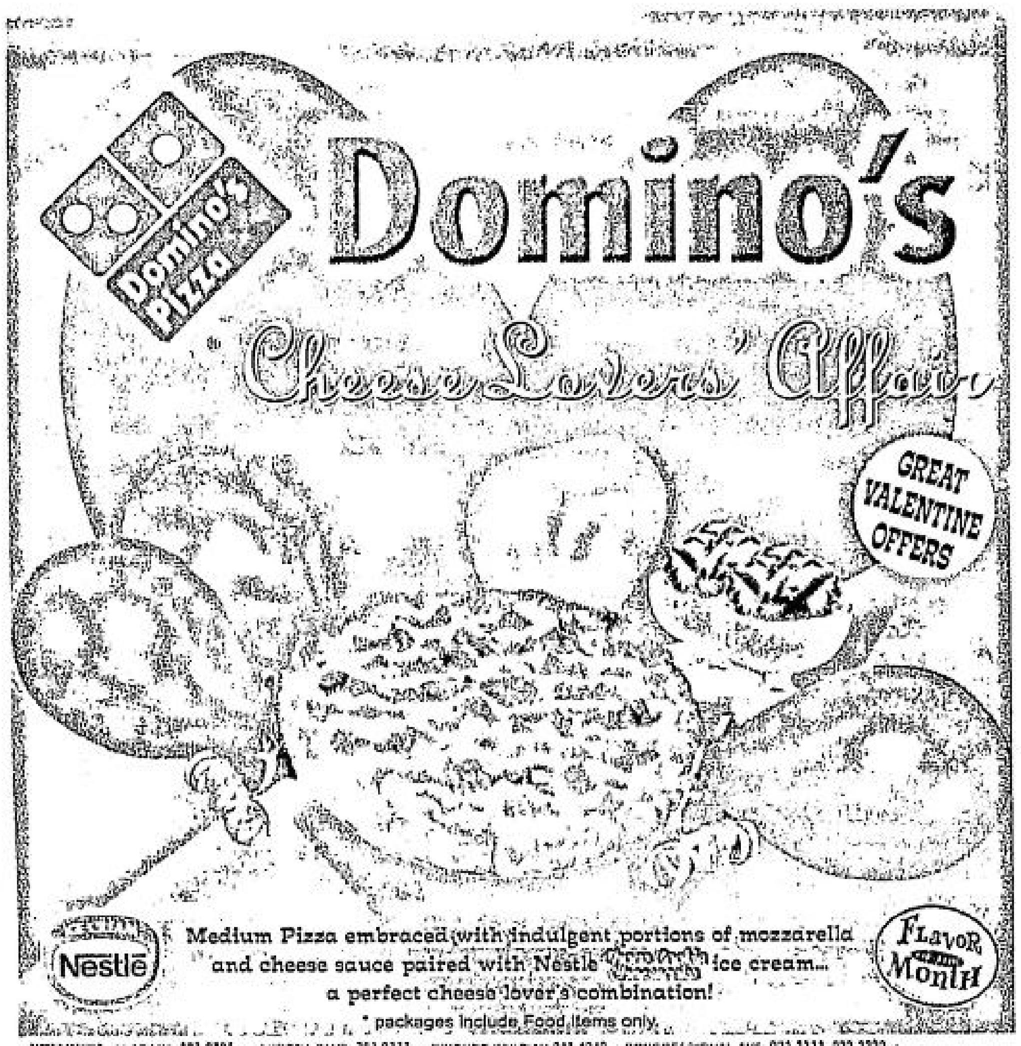
SUNDAY,
FEBRUARY 10, 2002 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER F1

Sunday Lifestyle

PHOTOS BY VAL HANDUMON

Playtime with 'The Vagina Monologues' cast Harlene Bautista-Sarmenta, Lynn Sherman and Tami Monsod

(Story on page F4)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Domino's
Cheese Lovers' Affair
GREAT VALENTINE OFFERS
Nestle
FLAVOR OF THE MONTH

Medium Pizza embraced with indulgent portions of mozzarella and cheese sauce paired with Nestle [illegible] ice cream... a perfect cheese lover's combination!

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"Love never dies of starvation, but often of indigestion."
Matters of the heart are now in your Globelines phone. Just dial 1-900-FUN2KNW (that's 1-900-386-2569), then follow the voice prompts for [illegible] words of advice on love and romance. All sorts of fun, all in one number, for only P3.00 per info. Call now.
From February 10 to 1[illegible], 1-900-FUN2KNOW is FREE CALL!
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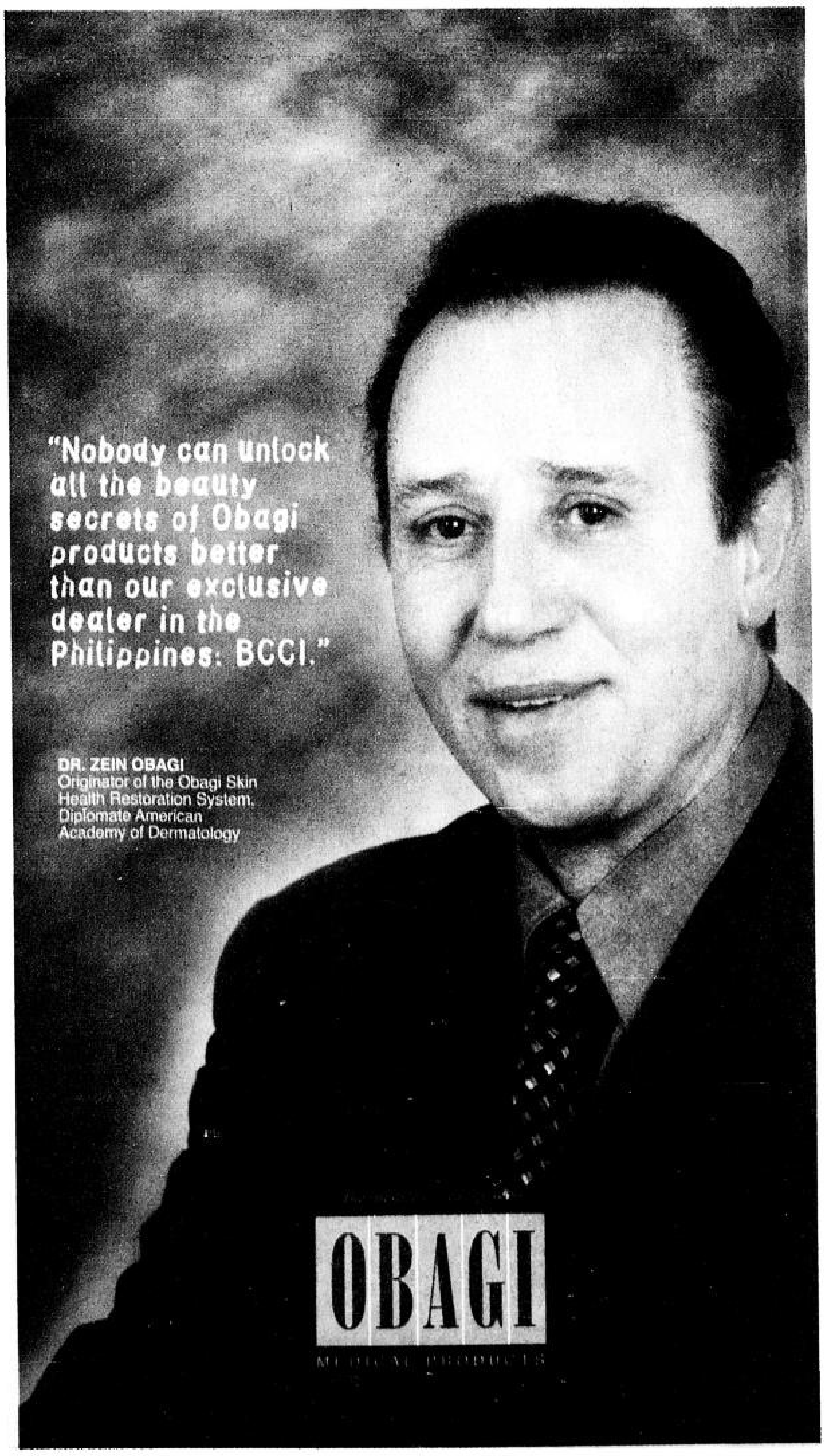
"Nobody can unlock all the beauty secrets of Obagi products better than our exclusive dealer in the Philippines: BCCI."
DR. ZEIN OBAGI
Originator of the Obagi Skin Health Restoration System, Diplomate American Academy of Dermatology
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1-900 FUN2KNW

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Check out our other services: Chinese Horoscope, Love Forecasts, Practical Tips, All About Teens and Celebrity Info. Also available through Globelines Prepaid and Globe Payphones at P2.50 per info.

His ideal girl is already committed to another man

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce

DEAR Tita Dulce,

I'm 22 and have courted only one girl. Not that I'm unattractive, but because I'm choosy. I believe that the relationship between two people won't last if they have different religions.

Last year, I met Mila who epitomizes my ideal girl. Everything was going smooth for us until she told me that she wasn't ready yet for a new relationship as she was still in love with her ex-boyfriend. I cried day and night.

Last month, while still recovering from such heartache, I was introduced to Nina in a church party. I found her very attractive. But, since she already had a boyfriend, I avoided her. Days later, I received a text message from "Secret Admirer." After we exchanged a few messages, Nina revealed herself.

That's when my dilemma began. I respect her, her boyfriend and their relationship. But I've been falling in love with her. I know this could just be a "rebound" on my part, but I could also be feeling the right thing. And from our talks, it's obvious that she likes me. Nina said she has doubts about her current relationship because her boyfriend has a different religion. She said that if we had only met earlier, everything would have been perfect for us.

At first, I advised her on how she and her boyfriend could get along better, but, later, I have become her suitor, sending her sweet text messages. When I felt guilty about it, she said it was okay. Is it really okay? If I were Nina's boyfriend, I would be hurt by what is going on.

So as not to hurt him, I plan to avoid Nina, or at least stop showing her how I feel. I know I could lose her by doing that, but then, there's no assurance either that she would be mine if I continue this.

JIM

That's very gallant but I'm afraid that would

HIS/ p.F3

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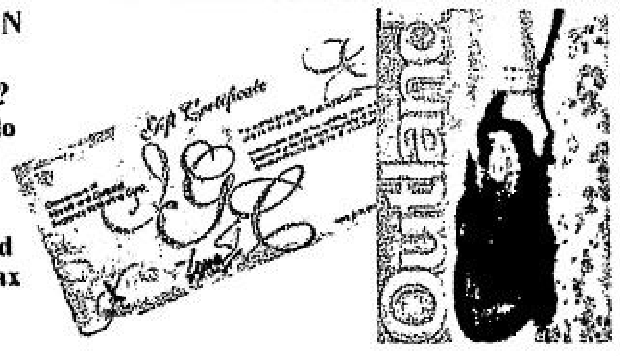

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Kids enjoying Heinz' ketchuppy taste at Rockwell

The Heinz Team at Famous Mike's

Diners at Grilla sample the richer, thicker goodness of Heinz Tomato Ketchup.

His ideal girl is already . . .

From page F2

accomplish little. Love can't be concealed. Your strategy will probably work as far as texting goes. But what your cell phone won't give away, your body language will betray. Hiding love is much like burying it alive—love promptly rises again in the guise of pimples or neurosis.

The solution, I believe, is for Nina to choose between you and her current boyfriend. One can't serve two masters, as the Good Book says, and in the realm of the heart, Nina is serving two. She's in a dilemma as you are, so I'm sure that she also wants to resolve this soon. Give her time.

Give her, too, a good and fair basis for comparing you to her current boyfriend. Holding back your love won't accomplish that. What it might do, rather, is give her the impression that you are cold or that you give up easily.

Would continuing your relationship be a sin? I don't think so. She's not married to him. And if you keep on seeing her because you sincerely love her, then you are not playing with her heart or unfairly disturbing their relationship.

There's no assurance, of course, that she will choose you over him, but that's no reason to give up. In matters of the heart, as in matters of faith, it is conviction, not assurance, which counts.

If you truly love her, express your love for her. If Nina, like Mila, breaks your heart, don't think that you are doomed for singlehood. For everything, as the Bible says, there is a season, and this might just be your season for learning more about love and loving. After you've learned that, you will be more ready for the girl meant for you.

UPLSAA holds workshop

INFORMATION consolidation and repackaging will be tackled in a seminar workshop for librarians and information professionals on Feb. 18-20 to be conducted by the University of the Philippines Alumni Association in Baguio City.

The seminar workshop enables would-be participants to gain awareness of the importance of the use and management of information resources, including analysis and repackaging information into various usable formats and facilitating their timely dissemination through conventional and electronic channels.

Its lineup of resource speakers include Dr. Francis J. Devadason, director of the Center for Library and Information Resources, Asian Institute of Technology of Bangkok, Thailand.

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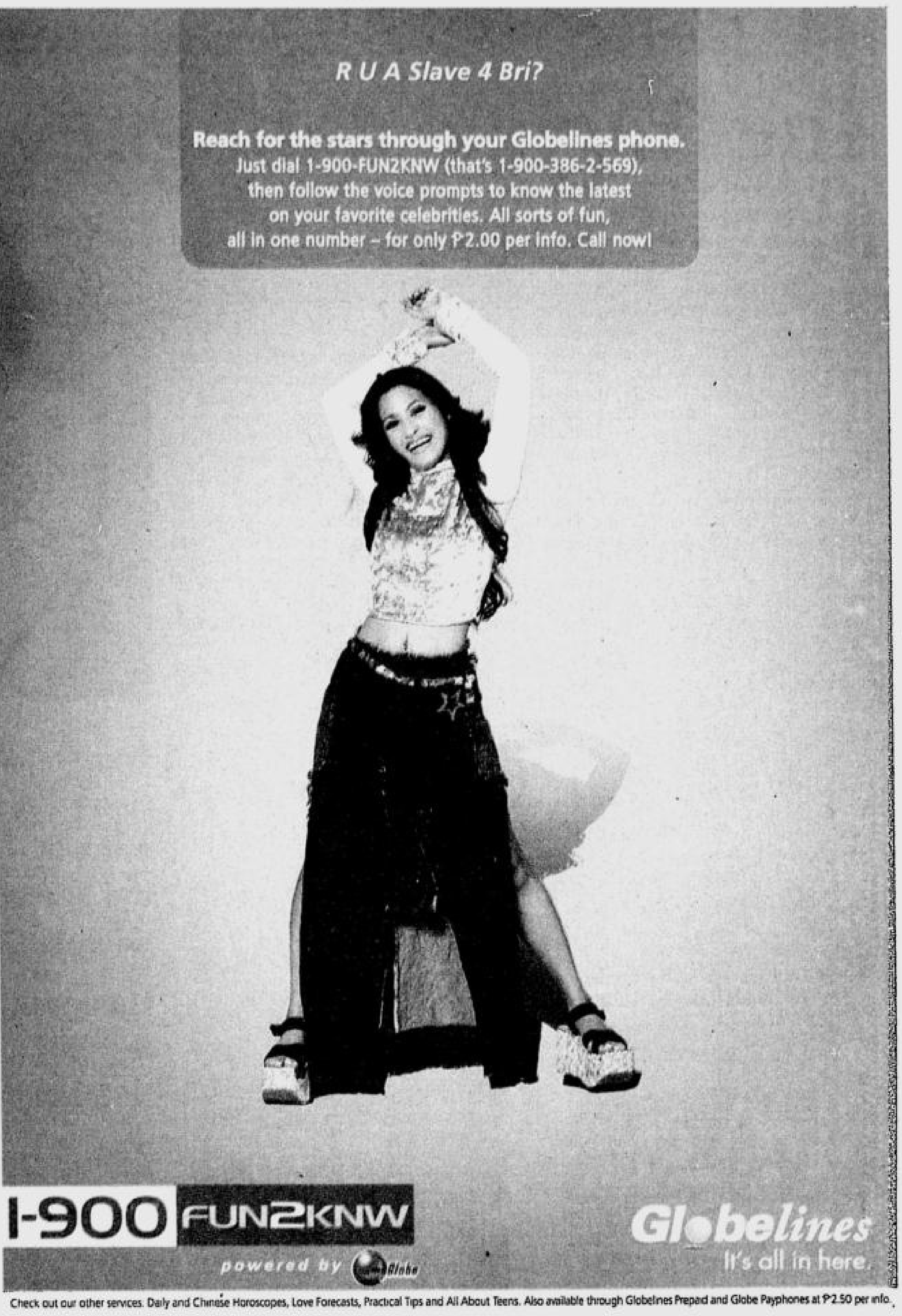
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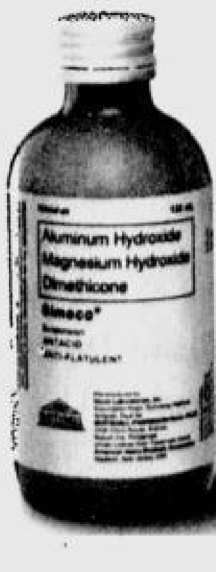

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The 'Vagina' dialogues

PLAYTIME

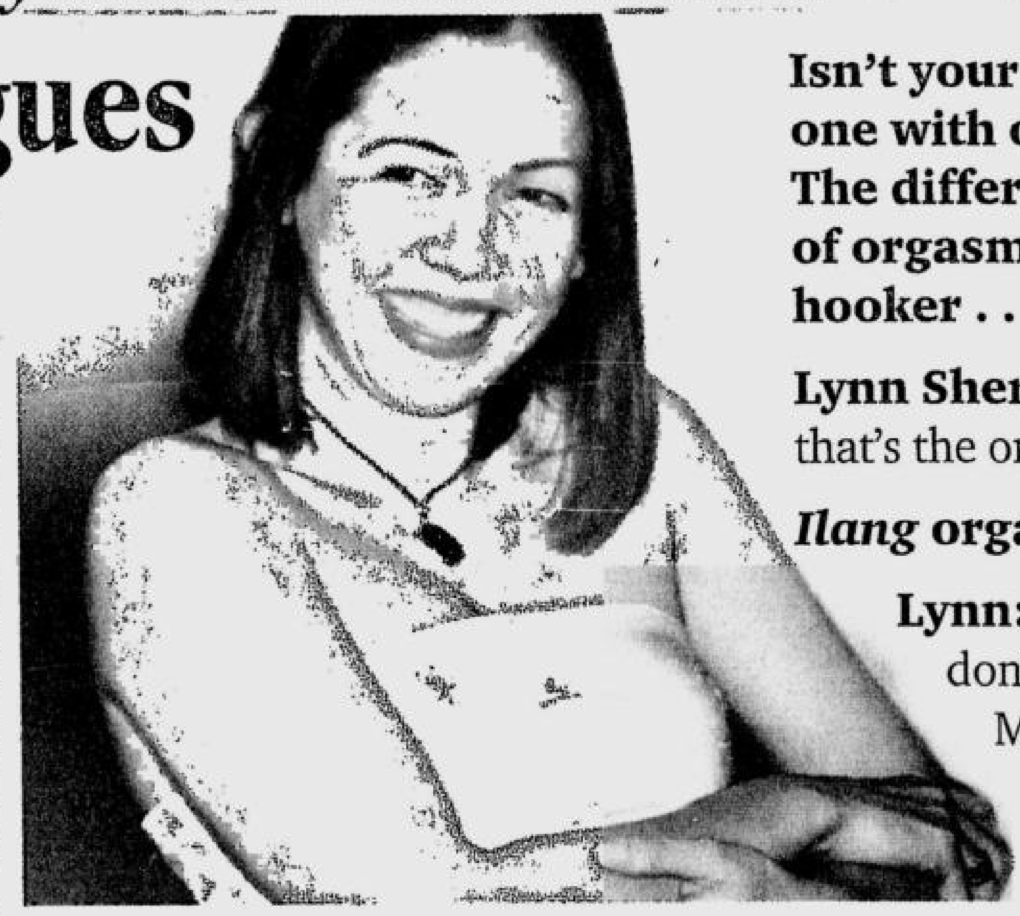
By the staff

IT was the first time a word for the female genitalia was displayed prominently in the title of a theatrical production. The first time the New Voice Company (NVC) staged Eve Ensler's poignant yet funny exposé on the private sexual lives of women around the world, based on documented real-life interviews, many snickered, a few were enraged and even the cast members had a hard time saying the title to family and friends. But in the end, nobody could stay away. "The Vagina Monologues" became an instant hit.

The Filipino translation captured its own share of following. Both productions would soon tour the country and even the region, eliciting applause or consternation or both. One thing was certain: no one, man or woman, left the theater quite the same person.

Who could ever forget the rants and raves of an angry vagina at the endless poking of a gynecology exam? Or the innumerable kinds of moans an aroused woman could utter during orgasm? Or the sickening violation of a Bosnia rape victim?

On Feb. 23, "The Vagina Monologues" will be staged again as a theatrical concert at the Folk Arts Theater as part of the Manila "V-Day" Worldwide Event. The celebration of V-Day, Ensler's international movement seeking to end all violence against women, will feature 50 prominent Filipinas from film, theater, TV, dance, literature, music, politics and media. A partial list includes: Marilou Diaz-Abaya, Bibot and Pinky Amador, Cecile Guidote-Alvarez, Gilda Cordero-Fernando, Nanette Inventor, Celeste Legaspi, Winnie Monsod, Roselle Nava, Leah Navarro, Belinda Panelo, Sarah Meier and Mitch Valdes. Ensler herself will join the celebration (for tickets and information, call 896-6695/5497 or log on to www.vday.org).



Isn't your role the one with orgasm? The different kinds of orgasms, the hooker . . . ?

Lynn Sherman: Yeah, that's the one.

***Ilang* orgasms *'yun*?**

Lynn: Gosh! I don't know. Maybe about 18, close to 20. And initially when I first read that monologue, I said, 'No, there's no way I can do this'

Were there nuns in the audience?

Harlene: Yes, *sa harap pa sila umuupo, eh.* (Laughs)

Reuniting on stage are the original cast members of "Monologues": Monique Wilson, Tami Monsod, Dulce Aristorenas, Lara Fabregas, Lynn Sherman, of the original English version; and Arlene Borja, Pinky Marquez and Harlene Bautista-Sarmenta of the Tagalog translation.

Playtime cornered three of these actresses and asked them to share their, well, "Vaginal" experience.

You've been doing the play for how long?

Tami Monsod (T): Since September 2000.

Lynn Sherman (L): I've been doing it maybe six months.

Harlene Bautista-Sarmenta (H): The Filipino version, since August.

But not just in Manila?

H: No, not just in Manila.

T: The English version, [in] Singapore, Hong Kong, Davao, Cebu, Dumaguete...

What's the title of the Filipino version?

H: "The Vagina Monologues in Filipino."

***Bakit hindi na lang diniretso na* Tagalog?**

H: *Kasi,* actually, *doon sa* script *namin ang* title *niya* "Usaping Puke." Actually, *'yung* "Vagina Monologues in Filipino" *parang mahirap na ring* i-market *kasi marami pa ring* Filipino audiences *na* conservative. *Sobra! Hindi pa nila ma*-take. *Hindi pa nila makayanan.* (Laughs)

And that's the challenge for you?

H: Yes, *talagang* challenge *sa akin.*

So *ano 'yung na*-observe *mo sa* reaction *nila? 'Yung sa* Filipino?

H: *Sa umpisa 'yung* reaction *nila natatawa sila na parang pinagtatawanan, 'yung gano'n. Pero* later on, *natatawa na sila sa mga nakakatawang* parts, *pero hindi na 'yung pinagtatawanan, alam mo 'yun?* (Laughs) *Natatawa na sila.* (Laughs) *Hindi ko masabi.* (Laughter)

So, Lynn, you're speaking in Tagalog here?

L: No, I'm in the English version. Me, Tami and Lara are in the English version.

Who's in the Tagalog version?

H: Me, Pinky Marquez, Arlene Borja and Missy Maramara.

Isn't it a revelation to hear you speaking in Tagalog for more than an hour?

L: For me also, but I don't think it will be a good revelation. (Laughter)

Why? It can be learned. It can be memorized...

L: But I don't think... it's not my first language. It would be too difficult. Just as it is, just doing the English version is a challenge enough. I don't think I could handle both, to be quite honest.

In Tami's case?

T: It would be a punishment for the audience. (Laughter)

H: I'd love to do the English version. *Si* Missy *nag*-English *na rin...*

Doesn't it affect audience interaction when the cast changes?

H: No *naman...* Every night different reaction.

Which "vagina" are you playing? Aren't there different characters?

H: "Coochie snorcher," "Bosnia," "Reclaiming cunt," "I was there in the room" . . .

What's the Tagalog of coochie snorcher?

H: *Ang munting mimosa pudica,* it's a term for vagina.

What's the most shocking lines you have to deliver?

H: *Dami, eh.* (Laughter)

L: Where do we begin? (Laughter)

Were you shocked the first time you read the script?

H: Actually, *medyo. Kaso kailangan kasi 'pag binasa mo alam mo na kung ano 'yun, hindi 'yung puro puke-puke lang, gano'n. Dapat talaga* open-minded *ka 'pag binasa mo 'yung* book, *'pag nanood ka ng* play...

Tami, how did you find the Tagalog version? Because you're one of the originals in the English, is it more shocking? Is it funnier?

T: Well, I found the Tagalog very deep, first of all. It's only because I did the English that I understood the Tagalog. But it sounds more shocking in Tagalog. There's just something (Laughter) onomatopoeic in Tagalog, you know. If it's *bastos,* if it's sensitive, it sounds sensitive. If it's meant to be *bastos,* it sounds *bastos,* it's *malutong.*

Did you see any effect on the audience vis-à-vis those who watched it in English?

T: No, both audiences loved it.

No? No different effect? Don't they laugh at different lines?

L: I think they'd laugh at different lines. It's interesting because for me *naman, 'yung* Tagalog, some of it, I found more humorous, [in] some things as opposed to the English. I don't know, maybe it was because *hindi rin ako sanay marinig 'yung* terms.

H: Like *'yung mga "pechay," "kepay," di ba? 'Yun pa lang nakakatawa na, eh.*

L: *Oo.* So what might be *bastos* for some people turned up to me *parang natatawa talaga ako, parang "Ano ba 'yan!"* (Laughs)

Isn't your role the one with orgasm? The different kinds of orgasms, the hooker...?

L: Yeah, that's the one.

***Ilang* orgasms *'yun*?**

L: Gosh! I don't know. Maybe about 18, close to 20. And initially when I first read that monologue, I said, "No, there's no way I can do this." And then when I rehearsed it at home (Laughs) I nearly jumped... I hit my head against the wall. I said, "I can't do this." (Laughter) But I was able to do it.

So this is your debut on stage?

L: No, I've been in musicals. It's my first straight play. It's quite a departure from my last play, "The Little Mermaid." (Laughter)

You can't hide behind the song...

L: No, you can't. (Laughter) You're all there. I remember the first time I actually did the monologues, I thought I was gonna die. (Laughter) No, it's different. You're there, you're just there. I mean, you're sitting there for like almost an hour and a half, no bathroom breaks, you cannot go backstage and go over your lines, you're there. You can't make *kodigos* in your hands. *Bahala ka sa buhay mo.* (Laughter) Once you sit there, *bahala na, di ba?*

How did your husbands react?

H: *Naiyak.*

Really? Why?

H: *Naiyak siya doon sa* "Bosnia." *May mga* parts *na naiyak siya.* Okay *naman,* very supportive. *Pero hindi siya nakinig sa akin sa* rehearsal while memorizing. Intentional *din kasi.* I wanted to surprise him. (Laughs)

L: I would rehearse at home. I forced him to watch me, "You have to watch me. I need advice, you know." But I couldn't do the moans until the actual show. (Laughs) I was that scared. But now, it's like, "Hey, wait till I get to the moans..." (Laughter)

Was it harder for you, Tami, considering that you were single, to do something like that? Doing a character like that? (Laughter)

T: Why would it be harder if I were single?

Because you don't have experience... (Laughter)

L: You assume too much. (Laughter)

Or so was it easier?

T: I don't know if marriage makes it easier or harder. I know that experience makes it easier or harder. And you can't equate marriage with experience. Didn't I make the question slide off so easily? (Laughter)

If you say so... (Laughter) So what sort of preparation do you make before you go on stage?

H: Review lines. *Sobra, kailangan!*

***May nakakalimutan din*?**

H: Yes, like me, for instance, *nabaliktad ko 'yung* story *ng* 9-year-old *doon sa* 10-year-old...

How did you solve it?

H: *E 'di binaligtad ko na lang, 'di naman alam ng nanonood, eh.* (Laughter) *Tinuloy ko na lang.*

The audience didn't catch on?

H: *'Di naman.*

L: *'Yun na lang iniisip mo palagi*—they don't know. You assume that they don't know how the story will go, something like that. And even for us, like when we're doing it in Hong Kong, if somebody missed a line, sometimes... We we're doing it every day, I wouldn't notice, except when we go backstage, "*Ano ba 'yan!* I forgot the line!" (Laughs)

Describe the first time you were

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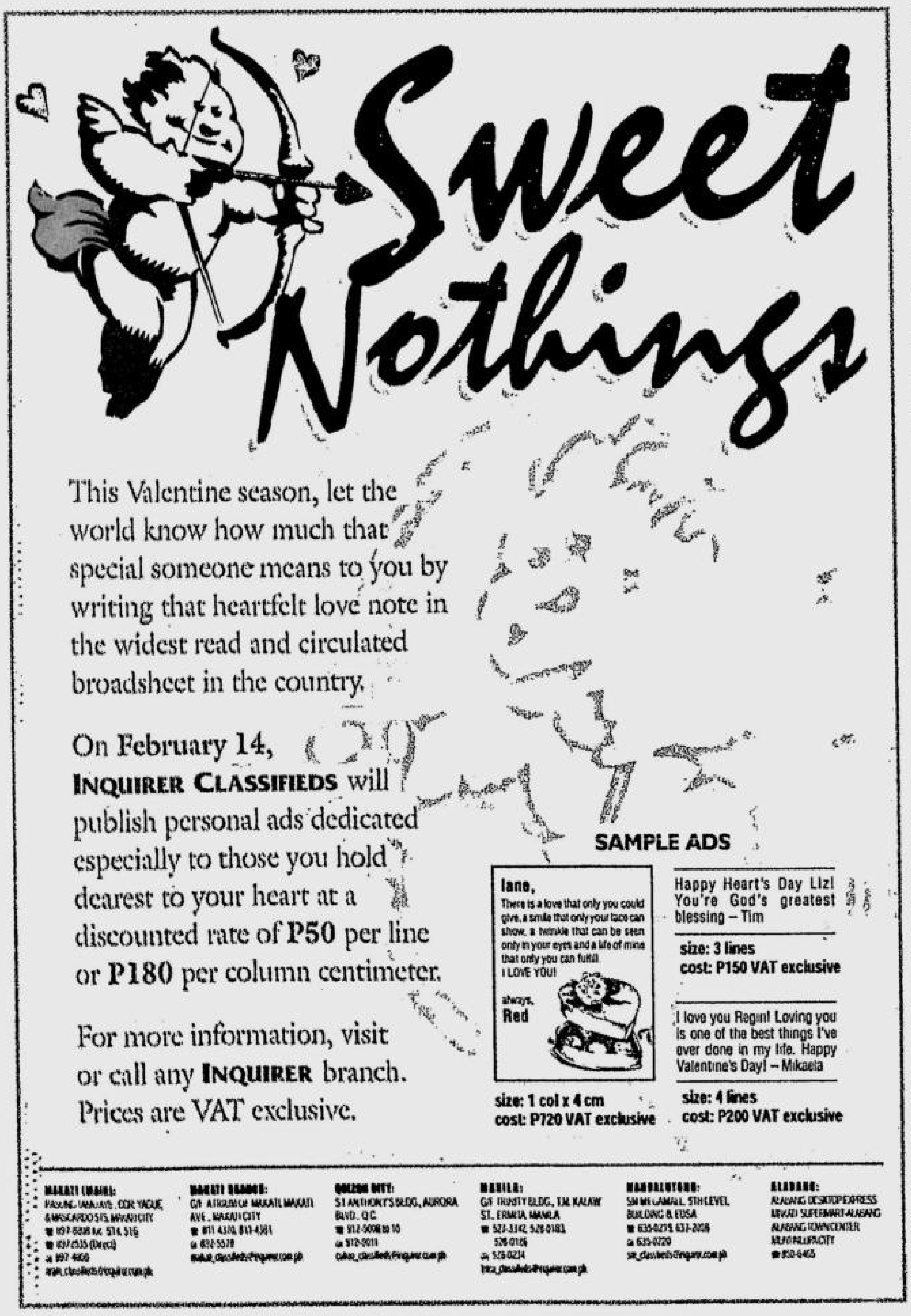

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doing it. The play was a groundbreaker of sorts...

T: Absolutely. We don't know how the audience would take it. We were afraid of doing it. We were afraid of feeling vulnerable. (Laughter)

L: You can say that again. (Laughter) It was scary because monologues are very personal and some of us hadn't spoken at such a personal level for ourselves yet, you know. Maybe until the preparation that we're opening the subject, just to mouth a personal experience like that, even if it's not yours, right?

Was it the most daring play you've done? How would you rate it?

T: Yeah, I think it's the most daring I've ever done. More daring than "Angels in America," which I thought was already daring. I did it in 1995. That was about homosexuality, AIDS... We thought that was very daring and then when I read this one, I said, "Oh my God!" (Laughter)

You didn't think of backing out?

T: No, I don't want to back out because I know that it's hard to find material like that.

Once in a lifetime...

T: Yeah, like I was telling the radio interviewer that in a space of an hour and a half, you can take four or five characters who are completely different and talk about a subject so deep and so personal.

L: That's why it's such a challenge.

T: Yeah.

What part was the hardest in terms of revealing yourself? What was the part that you really had to work hard for?

L: For me, the changes. The first time I read the whole thing, my monologues, I thought the second one would be the hardest.

What's the second one?

L: "Vagina workshop." But then I worked so hard on that that I think I got that faster than the others. But the others became harder, you know what I mean? And now when I think about it, sometimes when I do the first monologue, and that can sometimes be very difficult because it sets the tempo of the entire show. So it's not only the subject matter, but it's also setting the tempo for the show and, you know, you have to set the mood, and sometimes it relies on you so you have to... it has to be good.

H: Me at first, *'yung* "coochie snorcher" because *'yung* age, *'di ba, nagbabago?* You have to be very precise *doon sa makitang* transition, from 5 to 7 years old, *dapat sa* voice *kasi wala ka namang ginagawa, nakaupo ka lang, eh.* So *kailangan* clear *'yun*. And like what Lynn said, it changes. Like *sabi ko kay* Rito (Asilo) *ang hirap nitong* coochie snorcher. *Tapos maya-maya, "Grabe! Ang bigat ng* Bosnia." *Kailangan mailabas mo nang tama 'yung istorya. Tapos iba na naman 'yung sa huli, 'yung* "I was there," "*Grabe 'tong lola na 'to,*" *eh si* Eve *pa mismo,* so *ang bigat. 'Yung* "I was there in the room," *'yung* last part, last monologue, *ang hirap.*

Do you switch roles?

T: No, we never switch roles.

It would be interesting to see you doing another person...

T: Yeah, it would be interesting for us also. *Pero ang hirap no'n.* (Laughter) I worked the hardest on the part where my character is with the man who's looking straight into the vagina, and getting turned on, and getting so turned on that she starts to get turned on and then she begins to like her vagina because, before, she thought it was really ugly. (Laughter) But I think what was really hard for me was—I know this may sound so technical—finding what, I don't know, where she was from in the United States. (Laughs) Is she from the south? From New York? And I think that knowing where they're from affects your outlook.

Is that important?

T: I don't know, but the language affects the mental frame. So a British woman would deliver a monologue differently from a New Yorker or a black woman from Bronx, or something like that—very different.

So how did you play them? As a woman from...?

T: New Jersey, New York, in that area...

Why was it difficult?

T: Because Andrew (Vergara) wasn't happy with my first tries. (Laughter) Andrew's the boss (Laughter), Andrew's the director.

Is he also directing the Tagalog?

T: No, it's Rito Asilo.

How were the reviews? And would you like to rebut them? (Laughter) Now is your chance. (Laughter)

T: The reviews were very good. I think. (Laughter)

L: *Ako din, eh.* (Laughter)

You haven't read something that you disagreed with?

T: I know there was something I disagreed with, but I can't remember what it was. And I know that you have to take reviews with a grain of salt, because they're subjective, and they're coming from their own view points, so I've learn to take it with a grain of salt.

So you don't take them seriously?

T: I think when I was a very new actress I would get hurt by the slightest (Laughter) negative references. But now, it's a lot easier.

L: I've learned to do the same thing because, years ago, when I first started singing, I got a very bad review and I was devastated. I said "I'm not gonna sing anymore! This is the end!" (Laughter) I remember I was in a car crying. (Laughter) My boyfriend, my husband now, he said, "How could you let that one person's opinion destroy you?" And I've learned to look at it that way. Of course, it's nice to have good ones, you remember those. (Laughs)

But you learn from the bad ones.

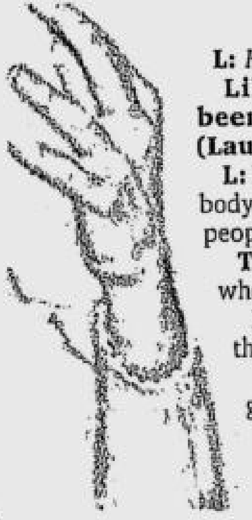
L: Of course.

T: Always.

L: Sometimes you have to learn how to decide whether it's right also.

So no one has told you, "You stick to singing *na lang*"?

Tami Monsod: People say that when I do the 'angry vagina' I remind them of my mother (laughter) because she's very feisty



L: *Hindi pa naman.* (Laughs)

Like many people have been telling Lea Salonga... (Laughter)

L: I guess it's different for somebody with her stature, you know, people are...

T: It's easy to be attacked when you're...

L: Yeah, when you're up there.

H: The Filipino version had good reviews.

Positive?

H: Yeah.

How do you find this compared to your movie work where you play *bida*?

H: *Hindi naman ako nagiging bida, eh.* (Laughter) *Sa* stage *nga lang ako nagiging bida, kaya mas gusto ko dito, eh.* (Laughter)

***Ay, si* Herbert (Bautista) *pala 'yung bida!* (Laughter)**

H: *Ganda. Masaya. Mas gusto ko dito.*

Any regrets in that area?

H: No, okay *lang.*

Were there nuns in the audience?

H: Yes, *sa harap pa sila umuupo, eh.* (Laughs)

What was their reaction?

H: *May iba natutulog.* (Laughter) *May nakita ko sa* audience *natulog siya, eh. Ewan ko, siguro di n'ya ma-*take. (Laughter)

How do you distinguish *na iba ang* male audience reaction *sa* female?

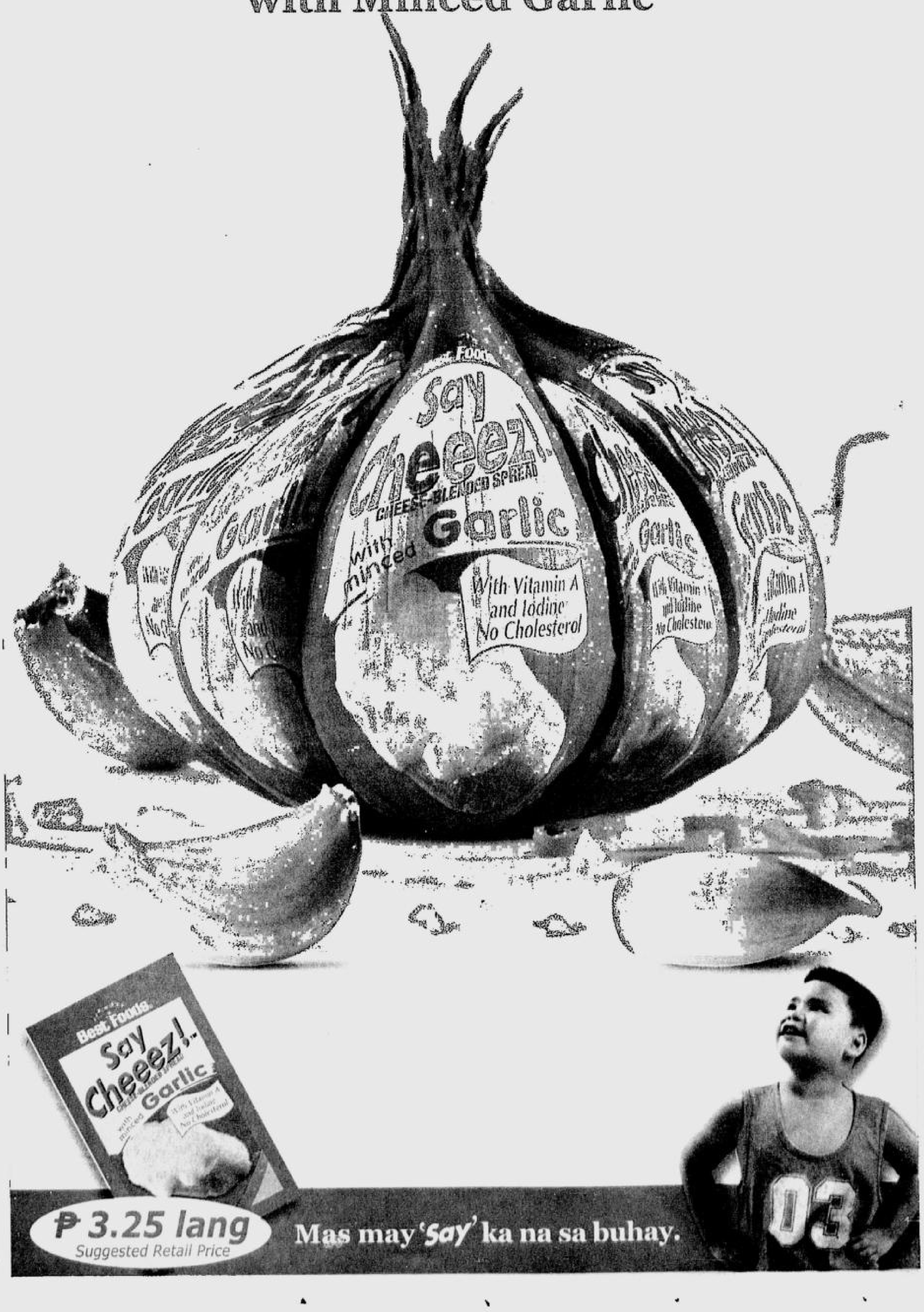
L: That's interesting.

T: Yeah.

L: The audience, like in Hong Kong, the male audience reaction is different from the male audience reaction here. *Parang* here *mas* hysterical *sila, mas natatawa sila.*

***Baka naman mga* gay *'yun?* (Laughter)**

THE 'VAGINA'/ p.F6



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The 'Vagina' dialogues

From page F5

L: *Baka.* (Laughs) Not to say that people didn't enjoy it in Hong Kong. It's just that *parang* here—how can I say it, help me out, Tami—it's like a women's thing in other countries as opposed to here, *'yung* audience *parang halo talaga. Sa ibang bansa parang mas* feminist thing...

T: You see more militaristic... you know, when the majority of the audience, like in Hong Kong, is women, wow! They are so rowdy. (Laughter)

L: It's like a drinking party.

T: When it's half and half, 50 percent men and 50 percent women, and probably the men are with the women on a date...

L: *'Yun!* When they're on a date, it's another thing...

T: They are a little bit more inhibited because what happens is, the woman will look at the man to see what his reaction is. (Laughter) And the man will look at the woman, that kind of thing...

***Naghihintayan sila tumawa...* (Laughter)**

T: Yeah, I think they're watching each other. So if I mention, let's say in my monologue, the thong underwear, right? (Laughter) In the audience...

L: Yeah, there was this *magsyota...* (Laughter) then the guy would look at the girl and his looks suggests, "Does she wear thong underwear? (Laughter) So *parang* we knew which [of the women] wore thong underwear... (Laughter) And it's different *kung magsyota* and *mag-asawa*. You can sort of distinguish *kung matagal na sila o hindi, medyo nagkakahiyaan, pero 'pag matagal na, hindi na.*

How is the Filipino audience different from the foreigners watching the show? Do they react differently?

L: They laugh in different places. Every night it's different also, but as a general rule, there are some things Filipinos find funny and there are some things, like people in Hong Kong, the expat crowd there, the Chinese crowd... It's interesting. I remember in Cebu, I was talking about Harry Winston diamonds, only in Cebu...

T: Whenever she mentions Harry Winston diamond, there would be intake of breath, it's like... I don't know, I never wore a Harry Winston diamond (Laughs), but maybe in Cebu, maybe they did. So whenever I say Harry Winston diamond, they laughed, they immediately reacted. But here in Manila they wouldn't. And then when I was in Hong Kong, whenever I said, "Okay, this monologue was based on an interview with a woman who had a good experience with a man...," the whole Hong Kong crowd would laugh because, apparently, they found it hard to believe...

L: That a woman would have a good experience with a man... (Laughter) and they don't laugh at that line here.

So *magaling ang* Pinoy... (Laughs)

L: *Oo, iba-iba ang* sensibility...

They don't enjoy sex in Hong Kong? (Laughter)

L: Apparently! (Laughs)

T: Or a different kind of sex? (Laughter)

So Harlene, you've been traveling all over the country or *dito lang sa* Manila?

H: *Hindi pa masyado...*

Manila based *lang*?

H: We had a show in UP Los Baños also.

So none in Cebu?

H: None yet.

L: Soon *yata...*

***Maganda sana makita 'yung iba't-ibang* reaction in different parts of the country...**

H: *Oo nga, eh, kasi 'yung sa* Filipino, *may mga* terms from *sa ibang* provinces, *meron din,* so nice *makita 'yung* reaction *nila.*

***Pero napanood mo na 'yung* English version?**

H: *Hindi pa.*

Tami, did you watch the Tagalog?

T: Yeah.

L: It's not just translated, it's adapted.

What's the reaction of the audience in UP Los Baños? How did they react to the Tagalog version?

H: *Ang ganda ng* audience *namin sa* Los Baños. *Maganda, nu'ng umpisa... gano'n naman, eh, natatawa na sila 'pag naririnig na nila 'yung* word *na "puke," pero* later on, *'pag may* monologue *na, nakikinig na sila, 'yung ganon.*

Based on the general reaction, would you say that Filipinos are sexually repressed or liberated? (Laughter)

H: *Siguro* half-half...

Why do you say that?

H: Well, based *doon sa mga* reaction *ng* audiences, *nakikita ko na 'yung iba tawang-tawa na pero pigil pa rin. Kaya siguro nahihirapan 'yung* Filipino version *na mai*-market *kasi marami pa ring mga* Pinoy *na hindi pa sila gano'n ka*-open. *Natatawa sila dahil sa salita pero ...*

Did you get any negative feedback, not necessarily from the audience, negative criticisms, negative reaction?

T: In hearing some of the lines, some people would walk out... there's a school that refused to... initially they wanted to get it, then they said no...

Can you mention the school ?

Rito Asilo (R): There are colleges that want the English version more than the Tagalog version. They are willing to stage the English version but not the Filipino version.

Why?

R: Well, they say that "You know, I love the play, I've read the book, but our parents will really complain if you do it in Filipino." Vulgar *daw sa kanila*. So in some schools they watch in English but not in Filipino because *baka daw mag*-rally *'yung mga tao, baka pati 'yung trabaho nila* affected.

T: I think in English it's more academic and safer for some people, and in Tagalog it comes too close to home, so it strikes a nerve. I think that's why they're afraid to run it in Filipino.

So where has the Tagalog version run?

H: Music Museum, Los Baños, PhilamLife...

No schools?

H: *Wala pa.*

R: But we're running it for the college students, UP, La Salle, St. Scho... it's not allowed in Ateneo, it's not allowed in Miriam...

But has the English version been shown in a Catholic school?

T: In PhilamLife, what school was that?

R: La Salle.

T: That's Catholic. There was this one in Davao...

R: There was this teacher *yata* in Davao, she was saying something like, "*Huwag kayong pumunta dito kasi patay kayo sa amin...*" (Laughter) Something like that, so it was faxed to us. Although *'yung* problem *namin sa* Davao, we performed in Davao with Tami, Lynn, Dulce, they threatened to hold rallies in front of the venue, but it was one of our biggest audiences...

T: That was with Lara.

R: Yeah, with Lara *pala*. Three days, 1,200 people every day.

L: Gigantic.

R: And there were a lot of nuns and priests for the performance. They said, "*Wala naman, eh.*" *Sabi lang naman namin* when we promoted it on TV, "Watch the show first before you say anything. You can say whatever you want after the show, just watch it first."

They said the title per se...

R: Yeah, they said it was the title.

***Masyado raw* provocative...**

L: Sure, yeah. I, personally, like the first time I told my folks, I couldn't even tell them I was gonna be in this play called "The Vagina Monologues." I was *dyahe* to tell my mom. But you'll get over that. That's why people should watch the play. They need to overcome that. Like when my husband saw the play, it made us closer as a couple.

You talk about it after the play?

L: Yeah, we talk about it before, after... I was showing my script and asking him for advice and... (Laughs) This one particular monologue... I don't know if I should... (Laughs) But, anyway, it made us closer as a couple... (Laughter)

What particular monologue? (Laughter)

L: No, I don't like... (Laughter)

Did you become closer to your husband (actor Romnick Sarmenta), Harlene? (Laughter)

H: *Basta gusto n'ya 'yung* "Bob"... (Laughter)

L: *O, di ba?* Guys find it very amusing, Bob, the man who likes to look at vaginas. He is a connoisseur. (Laughter)

So this is a worldwide hit, *di ba?* Wherever it plays [it's a hit]. Having played it, what's the reason?

T: It's timely, I think. Everybody in the world wants to put it on the table and discuss it. And it's about time that women from all cultures...

R: I think it's partly therapy. Because you're thinking of your fears, you don't want to talk about your most private part, and now you can talk about it freely in front of a lot of people. And if you don't want to talk about your own experience, you can probably talk about other women's experiences through them, so *puwedeng i*-channel *mo 'yung* experience *mo*.

L: And, well, I think this is so shallow, but I think it helps that the title of the show is... I hate to say titillating, but it's quite different.

T: It's provocative.

L: Yeah, provocative, that's the word.

Is there a male counterpart?

R: Yeah, I think it's called "Scrotum" something.

It was something like "Penis Chronicle"...

R: Yeah, *'yan din, mga dalawa o tatlo.*

Is it playing *na*?

R: *Nag*-end *na 'yung* run because it wasn't a hit.

L: "The Vagina" is better. (Laughter)

More interesting...

R: Probably better written, *kasi 'yung* male counterpart, *nag*-close after a few weeks...

T: And it probably didn't have the same soul as "The Vagina." People are ready to discuss "The Vagina." (Laughter)

L: They are. I think they are ready.

T: I didn't know I was ready until the script was in front of me, and then I wanted to talk about it, talk about it... (Laughter)

H: *Wala namang masyadong* issue *sa lalaki, di ba? Hindi naman masyadong na*-violate *ang mga lalaki.*

L: It's so different.

With your characters in the play, which can you identify with the most?

H: Me, *'yung* childbirth.

For obvious reasons. How many children do you have?

H: Two.

L: (Laughter) It's too revealing.

T: She's too shy to answer... (Laughter)

L: Actually, I love the "Bob" monologue, the guy who loves to look at the vagina.

Not that you identify with it? (Laughter)

L: No. (Laughter) What made you think that? (Laughter) Guys love that monologue.

T: It's a happy monologue. (Laughs)

L: The ending is really cool. (Laughs) There's comic relief everywhere [in the play], but this one is, like the first line...

T: It's based on a good experience with a guy, and a lot of the monologue is about violation also by men...

L: And women...

T: I related least to the childbirth because I've never given birth. But whenever somebody delivers that monologue, there's this joy that comes out that makes me wanna cry and I imagine my best friend, my brothers, my lover or whatever, and I think of them when they were babies. I don't know, I think of them.

L: That's true.

T: I think of them coming out of their mother's womb. That's a beautiful thought.

Do you think of your mom? The pain she has gone through delivering you?

T: You know, that's really weird. I didn't think of my mother, even if she's so close to me. So you might find that strange, but no, I thought more of the men in my life than I did my mother. My mother, I thought of... well... (Laughter) People say that when I do the "angry vagina" I remind them of my mother (Laughter) because she's very feisty. They say, "You look just like your mother when you do it." But I tell you, that's the last monologue my mother would do because she cannot even say the four-letter words. She said she's, at heart, very conservative. She calls herself a prude, but I don't think she's a prude. But she said she's conservative. She doesn't like saying the four-letter word, stuff like that. But she was very liberal when she found out I was doing "The Vagina Monologues." She said "That's great! That's fantastic! I can't wait to see it." But she doesn't want to say "f--k" or "s--t." In fact, whenever she hears me saying it in real life, she gets so angry. (Laughs) "Don't say that! It's so ugly." (Laughter)

R: But her mom's doing a monologue.

T: She's doing "Bob." (Laughter)

R: On Feb. 23, "V-Day," because Eve Ensler will be coming over, she'll be flying over.

The entire monologue?

R: Part of that.

Winnie Monsod is doing that?

R: Yeah, with Nanette Inventor...

Famous women...

R: Yeah, Bibot Amador, Marilou Diaz-Abaya, Cheche Lazaro...

So segment *lang*?

R: Yeah, but they're introducing three to four new monologues. It's going to be very interesting because we'll be mixing for the Feb. 23 show.

Do you get a lot of male audience?

L: Yeah.

What's the typical ratio?

T: *Dito sa* Philippines, 50-50.

But in other places, like Hong Kong?

T: *Mga* 60-40 in favor of the women.

L: Or *minsan mas* less *pa nga, eh*. When I saw it in Chicago it was like *parang* 80 percent *babae*, even 90 percent.

So, to what would you attribute the differences?

L: Different sensibilities... in America, the play is like a feminist rah-rah song, you know. But here, not really. It's like an exciting play, it's different.

Do you think the shock value is discouraging people to see it?

L: Well, some of my friends, yeah. But some of my friends actually told me, I said, "Have you seen my play, 'The Vagina Monologues'?" "I'm not gonna see that because..." or "Maybe I'll see that only because of you." But they're not gonna see that because of the title. I was like, "What's wrong with you? Get over that!"

Tapos nang makita nila, gusto pala nila?

L: Yeah, that's good, though, you discover more. When you speak to your friends you start to understand the different sensibilities because of the play.

***Pero 'yung* audience, partners *nanonood*, or separate?**

L: *Halo-halo, magsiyota...*

T: It's really a good date material. (Laughter)

L: Word spreads that it's a good play and a lot of people go as *barkada*. I've had friends, like a bunch of them, who came as *barkada*.

Is it a play you can take your mother to?

L: Yeah, my folks were laughing hysterically.

T: Mine, too.

L: And I was asking my husband, "Did you see how my folks reacted?" He said they were laughing and laughing. (Laughs)

Aside from your husbands, how do the Filipino guys react? The Filipino guys in the audience, your friends, do they walk out?

L: Well, I think every show *merong nagwo*-walk out, *eh*.

When do they walk out? What part of the play?

R: *Iba iba*, early on...

***Ano'ng* part *pinakamadalas may nagwo*-walk out?**

R: *'Yung* "Pagbawi ng Puke," the Tagalog version of "Reclaiming Cunt."

***Baka naman 'yung* husband *lang 'yun?* (Laughter)**

H: *Baka naman pinasyal lang 'yung anak ko.* (Laughs)

Is that your character?

H: *Oo.* (Laughs)

R: I think they come to the show expecting to laugh, expecting to enjoy, and then they come out liking it. With a lot of the monologues *kasi...* I think it's a good thing that they get to listen to the monologues because they learn to probably understand women more, *parang gan'on*, like *'yung sa* "angry vagina"...

Has somebody accused you of trivializing the vagina?

T: Not my experience...

Even in the review?

T: Not that I've read...

Have you met or spoken to Eve Ensler?

T: Well, before we opened, there was a telephone conversation between her and Monique, Rosanna, with me and Dulce, of course, listening slyly, and she sounded so down-to-earth and so wonderful to talk to. It's interesting for her to come here and for you to interview her yourself. She sounds so nice.

R: She'll be here for four or five days.

You mentioned earlier that there will be few monologues that will be added...

R: Yeah, "Under the Veil," *'yung takip ng* Afghan women, because I think before the war broke out in Afghanistan *nagpunta siya doon, nagtatago yata*, covered. She interviewed women, so there's one monologue on that.

May tatanggalin?

R: *Wala, idadagdag.* "Under the Veil" was performed by Oprah Winfrey last year for their "V-Day." Then "My Short Skirt" was performed by Calista Flockart of "Ally McBeal." Perfect for her. I don't know *kung sino'ng gagawa dito*, we're doing that here also. And then one about vibrators. Actually it's about Eve or the writer complaining about why guns are allowed in some states *sa* US and vibrators are not, they're illegal, *'yung* dildo.

Have you ever thought of inviting the President for the performance?

R: Well, you know during the TOWNS award last year, around November, October, we were at Malacañang for the ceremony and then *sabi ni* GMA *kay* Monique, "Why didn't you invite me to 'The Vagina Monologues'?" Well, I hope she comes. But we have not really invited her.

If your vagina could talk right now, what would it say? (Laughter)

L: Glad to be here. Thank you for interviewing us. (Laughter)

T: I'm still thinking! My God, what a hard question *naman* you're asking... (Laughter)

L: ... *Meron pa kong naisip na isa.* I want to go to Boracay. Vacation. (Laughter)

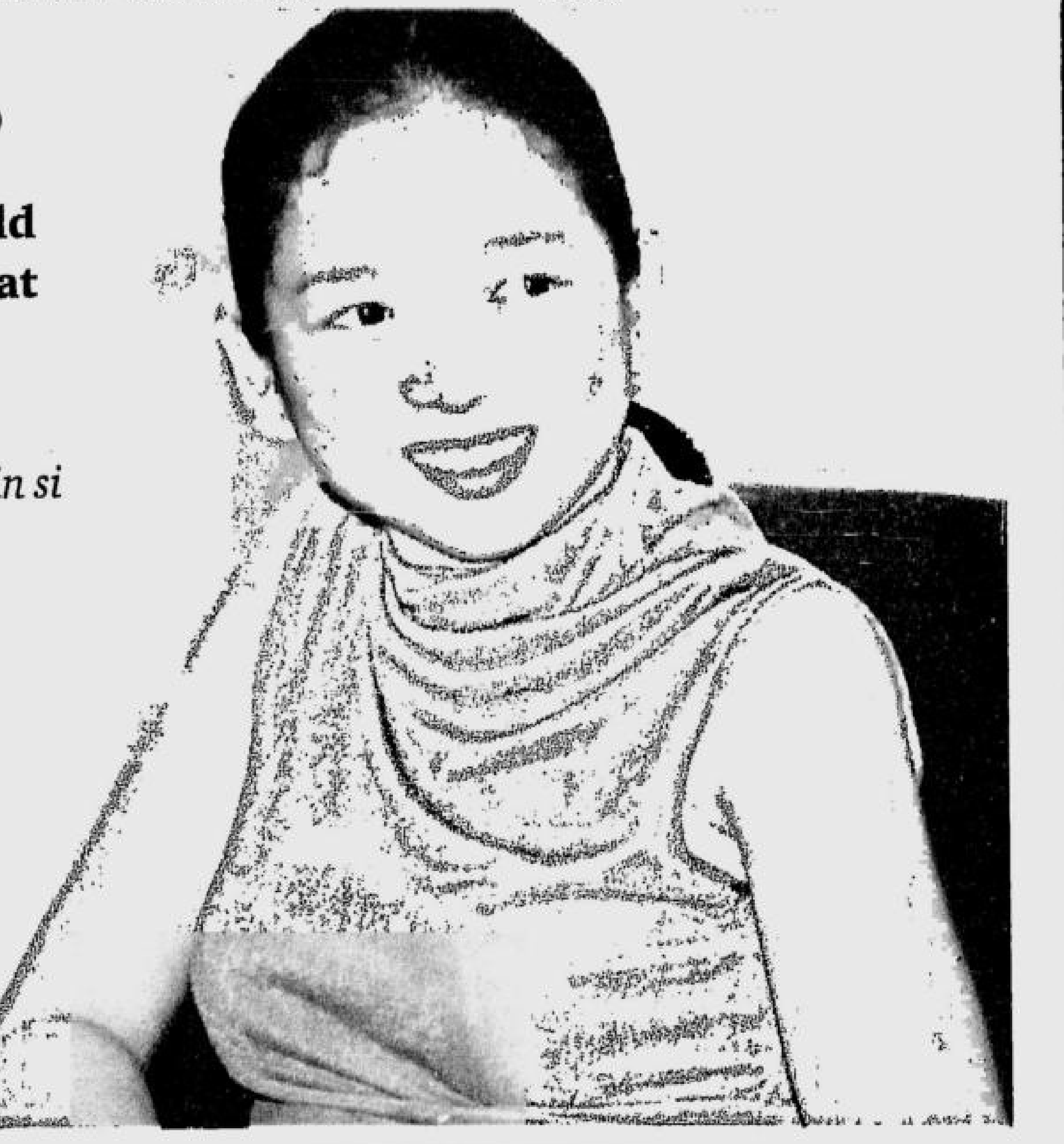
H: *Tatawagin si* Romnick? (Laughter)

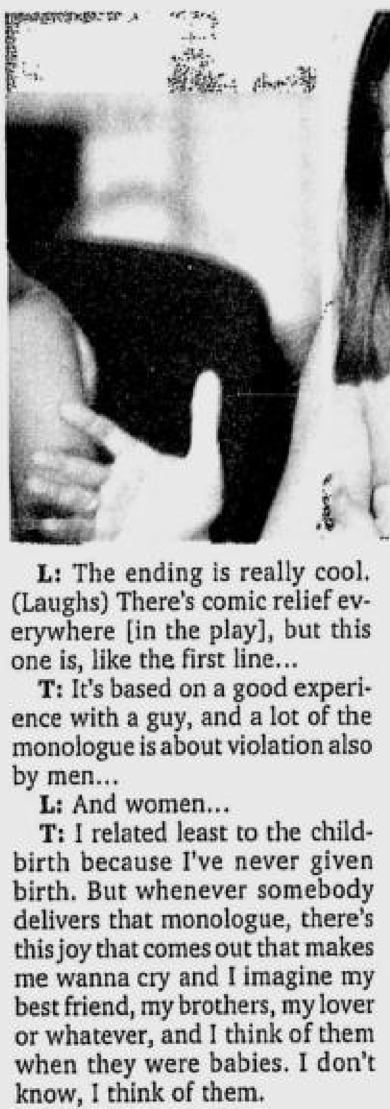
***Alangan naman iba pa tawagin...* (Laughter)**

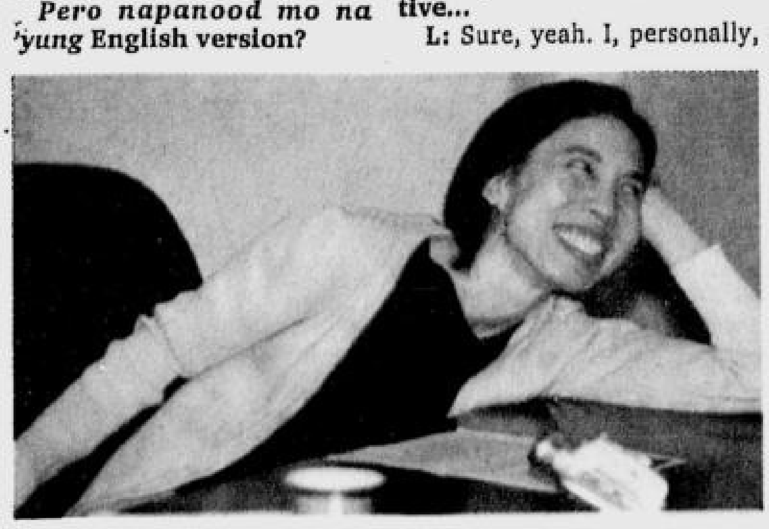
T: The mysterious vagina? (Laughter)

If your vagina could talk right now, what would it say?

Harlene Bautista-Sarmenta: *Tatawagin si* Romnick?







Knights of Columbus seeks beatification of its founder

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

THE CAUSE for the beatification of Fr. George J. Willmann, S.J., is being prepared by the Knights of Columbus in the Philippines, four years after his birth centenary on June 29, 1997. It is enough time to gather documents and testimonials on his life, works and virtues.

Father Willmann spent 44 fruitful years of his life in the Philippines in the service of the youth, the poor, the sick, the farmers, the prisoners and the Knights of Columbus fraternity.

He founded the Knights of Columbus in 1938 and it was through him that more councils were put up. In 1938, there was only one Manila council and 35 active members. By the time he left for America in 1977 to attend the 95th annual Knights of Columbus Supreme Council Convention in Indianapolis, there were 457 councils and 29,408 members. Father Willmann passed away in Brooklyn, New York, on Sept. 14, 1977, after attending the convention.

Catholic Youth Organization founder

Also in 1938, Father Willmann founded the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) in Manila and conducted sports tournaments, religious instructions and livelihood projects to keep the youth away from criminal activities. But World War II stopped all these activities.

After the war,Father Willmann continued the activities of the CYO; formed cooperatives for farmers; distributed food and medicines solicited from abroad; promoted religious vocations; took charge of the care of prisoners of war by mobilizing the Knights of Columbus in putting up relief, and recreational centers for them and continued its projects.

Father Willmann was himself imprisoned, tortured and threatened many times by Japanese soldiers and even Filipino conspirators. But all these did not shake his spirit.

'The gentle warrior'

His good friend Fr. James B. Reuter calls him "The Gentle Warrior," the title of his book on the good priest.

He was only 7 years old when George J. Willmann decided to become a missionary priest when he found out baby girls in China needed $5 each to be nourished and nurtured.

Baby girls then were thrown into the garbage, but the kindhearted took them to orphanages, where they were taken care of.

George's grade-school teacher encouraged the children to save a dime or a nickel and placed them in a box to be given to these baby girls. George would bravely pass by the ice-cream parlor with the nickel clutched in his hand and put it inside the dime box.

It must have inspired Father Willmann to serve God whatever the cause. Today, he has become an inspiration for priests to be steadfast in their faith and commitment to serve. His work in the Knights of Columbus is continued by dedicated people who are now seeking for his beatification.

Let's invoke his intercession

The Knights of Columbus is asking people to invoke the intercession of Father Willmann for their personal needs, whether for healing or financial problems. Report testimonies of miracles to Peter Tabin, administrator, Knights of Columbus' Fr. George Willmann Center on Gen. Luna corner Sta. Potenciana Street, Intramuros, Manila.

The Knights of Columbus needs testimonials to support the cause of beatification. Those who need prayers for the beatification of Father Willmann can write to the above address. Please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope for easier mailing.

You can also inquire about how you can buy the book "The Gentle Warrior" at tel. 527-2221 or telefax 527-2238.

Pilgrim image of Our Lady of Fatima here

Had Sol Alturas Yu not told me that the pilgrim image of Our Lady of Fatima from Portugal visited her house in Paco, I would not have known that the image was here.

The pilgrim image was blessed and crowned by Pope John Paul II on Feb. 28, 2001, when the Heralds of the Gospel brought her to Rome. But she was only brought to the Philippines very much later.

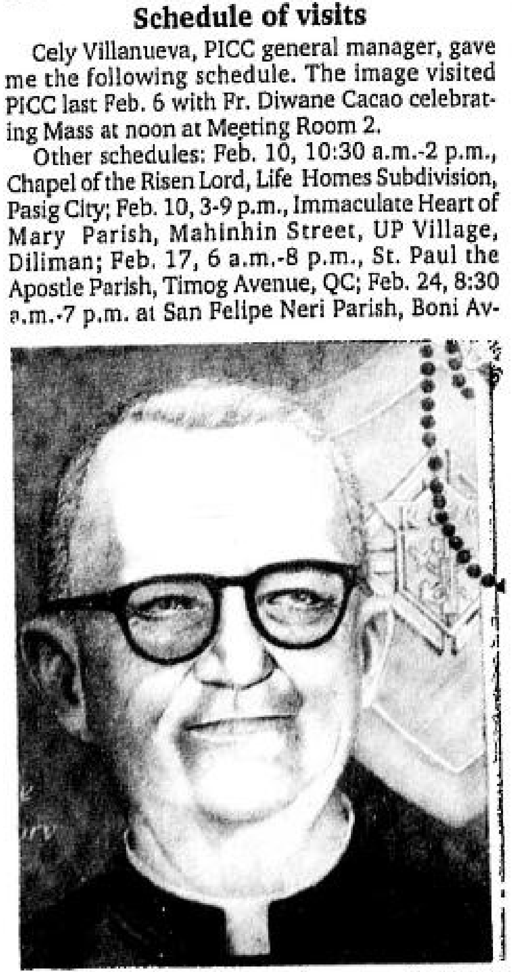
Jaime Cardinal Sin received the Heralds of the Gospel on Dec. 31, 2001, in Villa San Miguel. He encouraged the group to bring the image to all parishes in Metro Manila with the intention of asking for "peace and faith in the Philippines" and intensifying the devotion to the Holy Rosary especially among young people.

On its first day in the Philippines, however, the image was brought to Malacañang Palace where President Macapagal-Arroyo welcomed her.

Schedule of visits

Cely Villanueva, PICC general manager, gave me the following schedule. The image visited PICC last Feb. 6 with Fr. Diwane Cacao celebrating Mass at noon at Meeting Room 2.

Other schedules: Feb. 10, 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m., Chapel of the Risen Lord, Life Homes Subdivision, Pasig City; Feb. 10, 3-9 p.m., Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Mahinhin Street, UP Village, Diliman; Feb. 17, 6 a.m.-8 p.m., St. Paul the Apostle Parish, Timog Avenue, QC; Feb. 24, 8:30 a.m.-7 p.m. at San Felipe Neri Parish, Boni Avenue, Mandaluyong.



FR. George J. Willmann, founder of Knights of Columbus

OUR Lady of Fatima

The official name of the group, which has brought the image, is International Private Association of the Faithful of Pontifical Right Heralds of the Gospel. The members are lay people consecrated to Jesus through Mary. Made up of young people, the group members come from 30 countries around the world. They are celibate and fully dedicated to evangelization, living in separate communities of men and women.

The "heralds" are mostly Spanish-speaking. To request for a visit by the Virgin, call 722-1048, or address your request to "Heralds of the Gospel" at 83 Xavier St., St. Francis Unit 305, San Juan, Metro Manila.

Prayer meeting in San Jose, Greenhills

The Spirit of Love Catholic Community (SOLCC) is holding a prayer meeting at the San Jose Parish in Greenhills every Wednesday starting Feb. 13 at 7:15 p.m. There will be praise and worship and reading of the Bible.

The SOLCC is also giving a Life in the Spirit seminar on Feb. 16 and 17. Those who want to join can call Sister Myrna at 929-3056/3092.

Valentine's, Ash Wednesday

I wish you a Happy Valentine's on Feb. 14. May you be happy with the one you love. May God shower us with His love at all times. If you don't have a Valentine date, visit Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament and say hello.

Feb. 13 is Ash Wednesday. It's a day of fasting and abstinence.

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PROMO MECHANICS
1. Purchase any variant of Palmolive Fresh 75g soap.
2. On a piece of paper, write your name, address and telephone no., and affix your signature. Enclose in white legal size envelope together with one (1) wrapper of Palmolive Fresh 75g.
3. Drop entries at designated dropboxes located in participating supermarkets, or mail to: **Proteksyong Kumpleto, Pamilyang Panalo"** c/o Guaranteed Marketing Services (GMS), Inc. at 350 Dr. Fernandez St., Mandaluyong City.
4. Promo period is from December 1, 2001 to February 28, 2002. Deadline for dropping of entries is on February 28, 2002. Mailed entries should be received not later than March 12, 2002.
5. Raffle draw will be held on March 14, 2002, 2:00pm at Guaranteed Marketing Services, Inc., at 350 Dr. Fernandez St., Mandaluyong City.
6. A consumer may win only once in the raffle. If a name is drawn more than once, the winner shall get the prize in the higher prize category [(1) Educational Plan, (2) Home Improvement Plan, (3) Sari-sari Store Package]
7. Winners will be notified by phone and via registered mail by GMS. They may claim their prizes beginning March 30, 2002 at Guaranteed Marketing Services, Inc. Manila, or in the GMS area office to be specified in the registered mail.
8. All prizes are tax-free.
9. When claiming prizes, winners will be required to present the registered mail and any 2 of the following ID's: Passport, Driver's License, Company/School ID.
10. All winners may claim their prizes within 60 days from notification. Prizes unclaimed after the prescribed period shall be forfeited in favor of CPPI, with prior approval from DTI.
11. Prizes are non-transferrable except the Educational Plan Package.
12. All prizes are not convertible to cash.
13. Promotion is not open to any employees of CPPI, its advertising and promotion agencies, its authorized distributors, and all participating supermarkets, including their owners and their relatives up to the 2nd degree of consanguinity or affinity.
14. The decision of CPPI with concurrence of DTI is final.

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Scarf is now for the arm, not the neck

LUST-HAVE NAIL POLISH. From Louis Vuitton

T'NT TRENDS & TRENDINGS

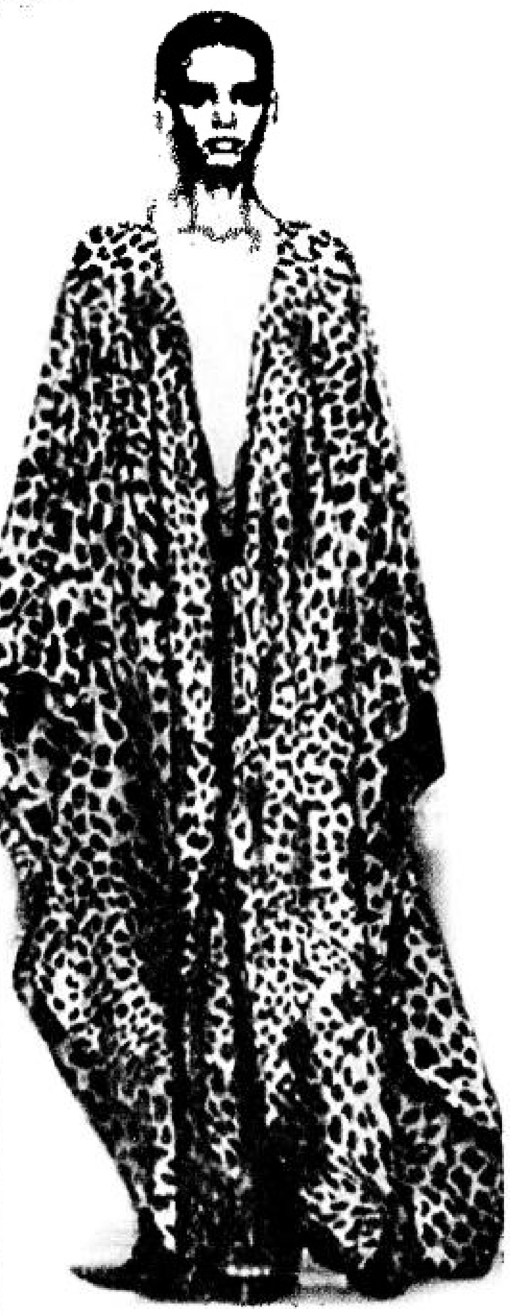
Anton San Diego

SEX and the City"—must-have look for 2002. "Sex and the City" has begun its fourth season, and to those who follow lovelorn Carrie, Samantha, Miranda and Charlotte fashion-wise, this season brings exciting new trends in style: definitely **out** are fabric flower corsages and nameplate necklaces. They are replaced by tons of pearls and more bra exposure.

There will also be tons of bright, bold colors and the usual sexy, revealing clothes. Another big trend is the scarf tied around the arm, provided you have thin arms like Carrie. The operational word here is scarf, not a blanket for women with flag-waving arms!

At the recent Golden Globe Awards, "Sex and the City" won for Best Comedy Series and Best Actress for **Sarah Jessica Parker**. Now if we can only get HBO to show the new season as soon as possible. I can't wait.

'Sex and the City' forecasts tons of bright, bold colors and the usual sexy, revealing clothes


THE RETURN OF THE CAFTAN. Leopard print by Tom Ford for YSL

Must-have from Louis Vuitton—nail polish. Nails seem to be getting into the fashion scene these days. Not since Chanel's Vamp has nail polish been so eagerly anticipated. According to a friend living in Hong Kong, this is not a must-have but a lust-have. Vogue says there is a waiting list for Vuitton's twin set that will go on sale in February in the United States. The colors are bronze and dark chocolate, a tribute to the brown-and-gold Damier print, and will retail for $60.

Tantric sex. I received tons of books last Christmas, and one of them that stayed at the bottom of the pile till now was a book on tantric sex. I really do not know why my friend gave it to me. He wrote in the card, "Hope you enjoy doing this!" I was perplexed. I asked him if he practiced it, and he replied, "No, but it has really cool pictures."

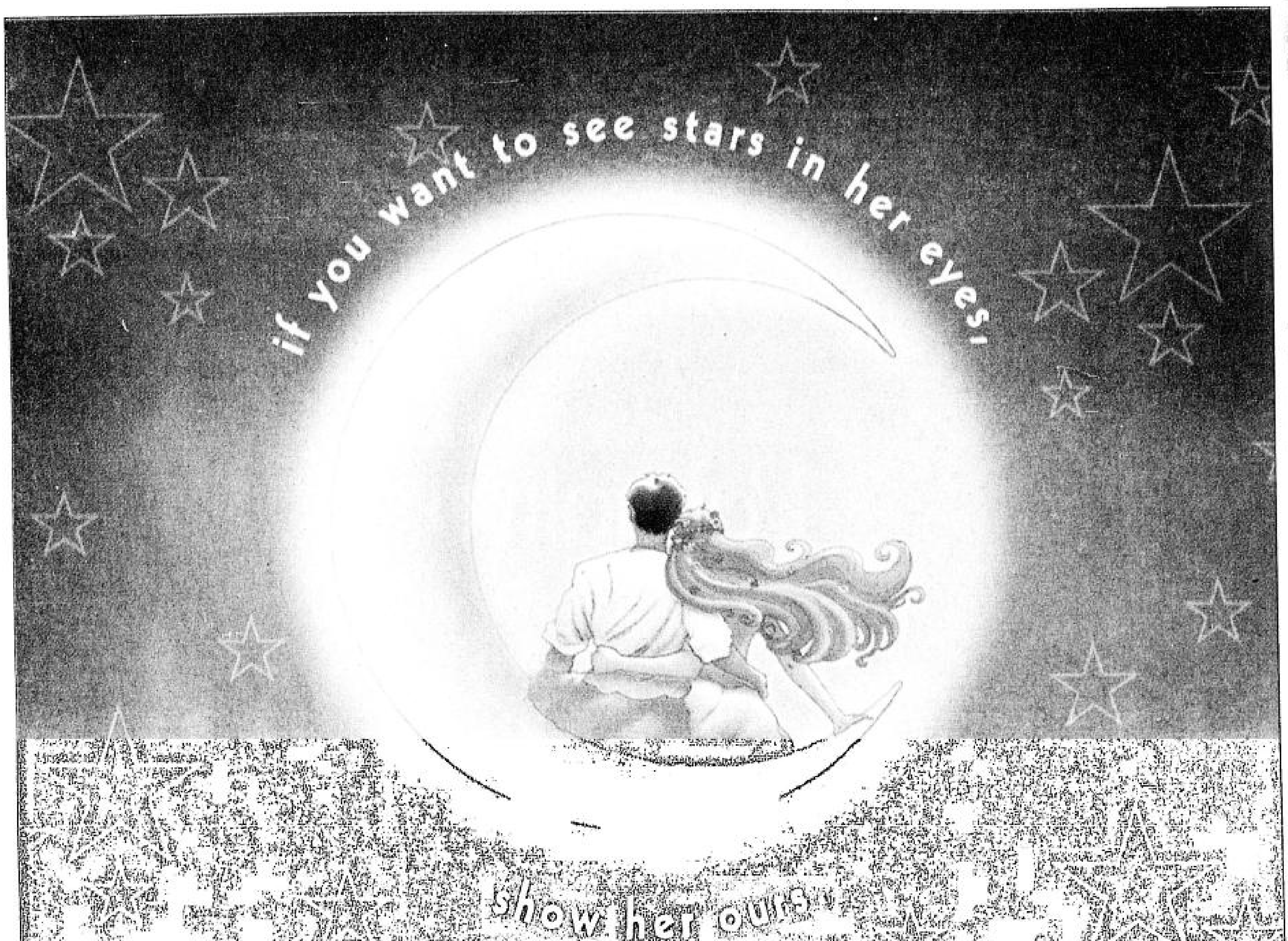
The book says, "Tantric sex is meditative, spontaneous and intimate lovemaking. Through it you learn to prolong the act of making love and to channel, rather than dissipate, potent orgasmic energies moving through you, thereby raising the level of your consciousness. Tantra transports your sexuality from the plane of doing to the place of being. There is no goal in tantric sex, only the present moment of perfect and harmonious union. Tantra teaches you to revere your sexual partner and to transform the act of sex into a sacrament of love." A bit spooky, if you ask me.

This practice has been around for centuries and is part of the "Kama Sutra," but reading it and seeing all those bloody positions was too exhausting. The premise that a person's life energies are supposed to be enjoyed (read: **no** orgasm till your partner has reached satisfaction) seems nice and unselfish, but who has the energy to have prolonged sex (think: more than four hours)? This is one of the things that are good in theory, but not in practice. Well, till I get the time and energy (and the all-important right partner), this book is going back to the bottom of my pile.

Must-have trainers—Nike Air Jordan XVII. Here's something for the guys. Everyone knows that His Airness, **Michael Jordan**, has returned from retirement to wreak havoc on basketball mortals. With his return, can a new pair of Air Jordans be far behind? Launched on Feb. 9 in the United States is the newest design called Air Jordan XVII (read: he has been designing one every year so this is his 17th). The high-tech sneakers come in a silver metallic briefcase and with a CD-ROM. The price: a whopping $200.

Caftan, oh, caftan! The spring/summer 2002 shape is a mix of loose and slim, oversize but still showing a lot of skin (think: loose pants and fitted shirt or the other way around). It's a backlash probably of the **Britney** cleavage-and-navel look. Now the focus is on a newfound sexiness in billowy dressing. Going through the designers' fashion forecasts, the one that really stood out for me was the return of the caftan, designed by **Tom Ford** for YSL. It probably was the most chic, elegant, old-is-new-again look, and I found it most entrancing and appealing. It brought to mind those black-and-white photos of **Liz Taylor** lounging in some French island with **Richard Burton**. I really do not know if women will go for it, but it sure is beautiful!

MUST-HAVE TRAINERS FOR MEN. Nike Air Jordan XVII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GLORIETTA • GREENBELT

ROMANCIN' G4
at the Glorietta 4 Park
Vina Morales - Feb 11, 6pm
Side A - Feb 12, 6pm

MOONLIGHT SERENADE AT GREENBELT 2
Ogie Alcasid - Feb 14, 7pm
Ariel Rivera - Feb 15, 7pm

A TEDDY FOR YOU ON VALENTINE'S DAY
From Feb 9-14, get a free teddy bear w/ every single or accumulated purchase worth P3,000.

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

ROMANCIN' THE TOWN
with the Apo Hiking Society and Agot Isidro - Feb 10, 7pm at the Town Plaza. Tickets are P400.
Get a chance to win an overnight stay at the Mandarin Oriental.
Reserve tickets at Dulcinea, Racks, Almon Marina, Fat Tuesday, Herc's, San Mig Pub & Restaurant, and Delifrance.

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- Food, game, and school booths.
- Request a love song or greet-a-friend at RX 93.1 booth at the Town Plaza.
- Henna tattoo & face painting w/ every minumum purchase of P200. Free for all Discount Plus Card holders.
- My Kiddie Valentine Show Feb 16, 11am at the Town Plaza Feb 17, 4pm at the Cinema Lobby.
- Pido with Take One Feb. 16, 7pm at the Town Plaza.

AYALA CENTER CEBU

MOONLIGHT SERENADE AT THE LAGOON
Janet Basco & Nonoy Zuñiga
Feb 16, 6pm
A dinner show with free drink & movie pass for P350. Get reservation cards at Cafe Laguna, Il Piccolo Sole, Cafe Wien & Oh Georg!
Grand Draw of Spell A Prize Promo, 5:30pm

VALENTINE'S FAIR
Feb 9-17, Section B, Exhibit Area 1
Specialty stores will have flowers & balloons. Body & Skincare services will offer discounts.

LITTLE LOVE ACTS
Valentine Card Making Conest and Cookie Decorating Contest, Feb 10, & 24 (Sundays).
Open to all families. Kids 5-12 yrs. may join by registering at the Customer Care Counter. Win special gifts & cash prizes.

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MANAGERIAL

BUREAU OF IMPORT SERVICES

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE & INDUSTRY PHILIPPINES

The Bureau of Import Services of the Department of Trade and Industry is in need of the following staff:

Two (2) Attorney III, (SG-21), Item Nos. OSEC-DTIB-ATY3-46-1998 and OSEC-DTIB-ATY3-47-1998 - to act as Team Leaders for the Bureau's function related to the investigations of cases on trade remedy measures.

Qualifications:
- Bachelor of Laws
- With R.A. 1080, One (1) year relevant experience and four (4) hours relevant training
- Highly motivated to take higher and challenging responsibilities and can work well under pressure
- Must have excellent writing ability

Two (2) Trade and Industry Development Specialist (TIDS), (SG-15), Item Nos. OSEC-DTIB-TRIDS-555-1998 and OSEC-DTIB-TRIDS-2-1998

Qualifications:
- Bachelor's Degree
- One (1) year relevant experience
- Four (4) hours of relevant training
- With backgrounds in Law, Accounting, Economics or Engineering
- Good work attitude and can cope with the demands of technical work
- Must be good in oral and written communications preferably with good writing skills
- Preferably computer literate

Five (5) Trade and Industry Development Analyst (TIDA), (SG-11), Item Nos. OSEC-DTIB-TRIDA-103-1998; OSEC-DTIB-TRIDA-115-1998; OSEC-DTIB-TRIDA-98-1998; OSEC-DTIB-TRIDA-80-1998 and OSEC-DTIB-TRIDA-92-1998

Qualifications:
- Bachelor's Degree
- With backgrounds in Law, Accounting, Economics or Engineering
- Good work attitude and can cope with the demands of technical work
- Must be good in oral and written communications preferably with good writing skills
- Preferably computer literate

One (1) Computer Programmer II (SG-15), Item No. OSEC-DTIB-COMPRO2-1-1998

Qualifications:
- Graduate of Bachelor of Science in Computer Science major in Information Technology or other related courses
- With relevant working experience as Programmer/System Analyst, at least 1 year, 4 hours relevant training
- Preferably knowledgeable in Web Server Administration, Windows NT, Database Administration and Java C/C++

Two (2) Clerk III (SG-6), Item Nos. OSEC-DTIB-CK3-102-1998 and OSEC-DTIB-CK3-88-1998

Qualifications:
- Completion of two (2) years in college
- Adequate working knowledge of various computer softwares particularly windows application
- Must be hardworking and can work with minimal supervision

In compliance with E.O. 100, applicants must be currently employed in any Government institution and are interested to transfer to this Department.

Interested applicants may send their application with curriculum vitaé and other relevant documents (i.e. CSO eligibility, transcript of records, certified true copy of Diploma and PRC certificates) to:

THE DIRECTOR
BUREAU OF IMPORT SERVICES
DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY
3rd Floor, Oppen Building
349 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City

Office of the President

Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission

2/F Engineering Building, MWSS Compound
Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City

Invites qualified applicants to be appointed on secondment or contractual basis for the following positions:

ONE (1) DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS (SG-27)

Professional Manager; preferably with background in Economics/Urban Planning/Environmental Science, Chemical/Civil Engineering or related fields; at least 10 years supervisory experience in managing development projects and inter-agency coordination.

ONE (1) DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE (SG-27)

Lawyer (BAR passer), willing to handle PRRC legal cases, administrative and financial matters; preferably with background in Program Administration/Project Management/Accounting/Budgeting and procurement; at least 10 years supervisory experience.

TWO (2) LEGAL OFFICERS (SG-20 & 22)

Has passed the BAR; at least three years experience in handling legal cases.

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS (SG-18)

a) Graduate of Environmental Sciences/Chemistry/Chemical Engineering/Marine/Water Resource Management; and b) GIS professional expert. Applicants must possess excellent writing skills with at least two years work experience.

Interested applicants may submit curriculum vitaé with 2x2 photo to the Administrative Division, Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission, 2nd Floor, MWSS Engineering Building, Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City.

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You will develop, implement and monitor traditional and distance learning programs. The position requires 3 years hands-on training experience, exceptional communication and presentation skills. Strong people skills with the ability to deliver timely results and a relevant university degree are also required.

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You will assist in providing customer service and marketing support to the sales team through the development of marketing plans and sales materials. You will also be expected to do market research and manage special projects. College degree with at least 2 years marketing or research experience, excellent English communication skills and computer literacy are necessary qualifications.

A competitive remuneration package and a truly challenging, international and dynamic work environment awaits the right candidates. Interested parties should send their resume and contact details to any of the following:

Corporate Human Resources
online: career.globalsources.com
e-mail: asmhr@globalsources.com
fax: (632) 892-4087
post: P.O. Box 4597, MCPO, Makati City

global sources
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2 - Chief Accountants (CPA)

2 - Accounting Clerks

- graduate of Accounting from a reputable school
- with at least 2-3 years relevant experience in a manufacturing set-up
- proficient in computer applications
- single, female, with pleasing personality and supervisory capability

3 - Management Trainees

(fresh graduates are welcome)

- graduate of Industrial or Chemical Engineering from a reputable school
- with supervisory capability and computer literate
- single, male or female

2 - Marketing Management Trainees

(fresh graduates are welcome)

- graduate of at least 4-year college course from a reputable school
- must enjoy research and field work as the job entails travel around the country
- must be self-motivated and results-oriented
- experience in sales and/or marketing can be an advantage

1 - Pharmacist

- licensed
- with BFAD exposure
- single, female

1 - Secretary

- graduate of 4-year related course from a reputable school
- above-average communication skills, computer literate
- single, female and with pleasing personality

Salaries and benefits will be comparable with those of the industry!

All applicants must not be over 30 years of age and may send comprehensive resumé together with transcript of records to **838-8452** or send to:

The Corporate Personnel Management Group
Executive Power Center, 6/F Pacific Star Building
Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue corner Makati Avenue
Makati City, 1200

Tel. No. **838-7240** look for Tom

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Senior Research Officer

You will be tasked to build systems and workflows. You will also be responsible for maintaining one of the companyís network of sites and developing processes and infrastructure for the enhancement of its features and services. You must have good analytical skills to mine relevant data from the site. A university degree in computer science or communication with 3 years experience in a similar position, excellent English skills and computer literacy are required.

Technical Documentation Officer

You will be responsible in the actual writing of documents and assist in the development of templates and standards required for project documentation. Ideally the candidate must have a proven track record in journalism, specializing in technical writing, or 2 years of comparable work experience. Those with first class English communication skills, a keen eye for details and a relevant degree will have a distinct advantage.

A competitive remuneration package and a truly challenging, international and dynamic work environment awaits the right candidates. Interested parties should send their resume and contact details to any of the following:

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Job Code: SRD
He shall be responsible for the over-all conceptualization and design development of architectural and interior design projects in both the proposal and contract stages. He shall likewise oversee the production of contract documents, design details and specifications. He shall further provide overall design support during the construction stages. He must have sufficient skill and experience in client servicing and must have potential for promotion to associate and partner levels.

Male or female
College degree in architecture or interior design
Advanced studies preferred
Professional registration preferred
International exposure an advantage
Design-related computer literacy an advantage
Excellent presentation skills an advantage
Design portfolio and at least 5 years experience required

DESIGN OFFICER

Job Code: DSG
He shall be responsible for the generation of concept and design solutions for a range of architecture and interior design projects. He shall oversee the production of various multi-media presentation materials: construction and detail working, and specifications. He shall undertake project management and shall ensure design quality control during project implementation.

Male or female
College degree in Architecture or Interior Design
Professional Registration preferred
Exposure in interior architecture preferred
Design-related computer literacy and proficiency preferred
Design portfolio and at least 3 years experience required

PROJECT OFFICER

Job Code: PRO
He shall be responsible for the generation of specifications, quantity surveys and cost estimates. He shall undertake project management and shall ensure design quality control during project implementation.

Male or female
College degree in Architecture or Engineering
Professional Registration preferred
Exposure in interior architecture preferred
Design-related computer literacy and proficiency preferred
At least 3 years experience required

Interested parties may submit their comprehensive resumé not later than **22 February 2002 at:**

THE ENVIRONMENTS COLLABORATIVE
27/F Philamlife Tower
8767 Paseo de Roxas
Makati City 1226

Trunk +632 885 0808
Fax +632 728 0808
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Interested applicants are invited to send their resumés with contact numbers, current and expected pay, and a recent 2x2 photo to:

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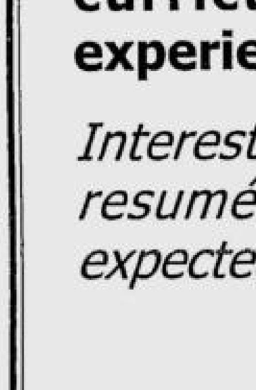

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- Female/Male; Graduate of a four-year Business or Communications course; With at least two (2) years relevant experience in Marketing Services and/or Events coordination; Resourceful, self-starter, energetic, with excellent oral and written communication skills; Highly motivated, with working knowledge in Internet and MS Office applications; Can work with minimal supervision.

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- Female/Male; Graduate of a four-year course; With at least one (1) year work experience in a similar position, preferably in the IT or Commercial Banking industry; Service-oriented, a team player, excellent in inter-personal relations, and with excellent oral and written communication skills.

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- Female/Male; Graduate of a four-year course; With 2 to 3 years work experience in Sales, preferably in the IT/ISP industry; Service-oriented, resourceful, self-starter, and with excellent oral and written communication skills.

Interested applicants may send in their résumés with colored photo to:

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- ➢ Strong analytical, quantitative, problem solving and communication skills are important
- ➢ Dependable, self-motivated and able to take on responsibility quickly and to work well in a team environment
- ➢ Proficient in Microsoft Office Suite

Interested applicants are requested to mail their comprehensive resumé with transcript of records and a most recent photograph, NBI Clearance and a Letter of Recommendation at:

The Human Resources Department
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845 A. Arnaiz Avenue, Legaspi Village, Makati City
Tel. No. 813-6515

The Asia Foundation is seeking to hire a qualified and dynamic

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to manage the transparency and accountability program in the Foundation's Philippines program governance portfolio. The program officer will work with project partners, donors, and other related constituencies in the development, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of the program.

The individual selected for this position will be highly motivated and prepared to assume significant responsibility for developing and implementing a multi-faceted grant-making program. Candidates should ideally possess a minimum of 5 years development-oriented professional experience in the Philippines, ideally in the field of governance and public policy, including local governance. A Master's or Professional degree is preferred, with a Bachelor's degree the minimum. Studies in the fields of political science, public administration, or economics are desirable. Candidates will be expected to demonstrate strong program management and verbal and written communication skills, as well as the ability to work with a wide range of partners, including senior government and private sector officials as well as NGOs. Experience with international donor-funded projects is preferred, but not required.

The Asia Foundation is an international private voluntary organization that has been supporting development programs in the Philippines since 1954. The position will be under a contract with full benefits and salary commensurate with experience. Please submit cover letter and resumé to:

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by email to general@asiafound.org.ph

or via mail to:
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Domestic Airport Post Office, Pasay City.

The deadline for applications is February 21, 2002.

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- Preferably M.E. / E.C.E. graduates
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Pls. affix the job code on the envelope.
The Recruitment Officer ; Philam Properties Corp. , 9th Floor Philamlife Tower, 8767 Paseo de Roxas , Makati City

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- Substantial (minimum 3 years) experience in related fields
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Excellent communication skills

Telemarketers

(Male or Female)

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Willing to work shifts (night or day)

Please send resumé with picture to:

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Dasmariñas Village, Makati City
or email resumé to
hrd@pinoysearch.com
or fax to 893-9241

For the Project **"CONSTRUCTION OF THE JOSE RIZAL NATIONAL EYE REFERRAL CENTER"** the FILIPINAS EYE CENTER FOUNDATION seeks highly qualified and motivated Filipinos to form the Project Management Unit.

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FOUR (4) CONSTRUCTION SUPERVISORS

(In architecture, infrastructure, mechanical and electrical facilities)
Candidates should be resourceful, creative, flexible, willing to learn, and most importantly "team players".
Competitive salary offered
Send application letter, comprehensive resumé and 2x2 photo:

The Project Management Unit
Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences
Philippine General Hospital
Taft Ave., Ermita, Manila, 1000
Tel/Fax: 02-5210007 - Email: eye_center@hotmail.com
Deadline: 5:00 pm, February 15, 2002

SALES & MARKETING MANAGER

BEAUTY THERAPHY – SKIN CARE INDUSTRY

We seek a female, college graduate in Business Administration/ Marketing or similar. Must have excellent English skills, both written and verbal. Plus speak Tagalog, Cebuano and other dialects. Be computer literate. Have a high level of self-motivation and be able to motivate and lead others. Show a friendly, confident and outgoing personality and be of the highest integrity.

EXPERIENCE Minimum of five years in a sales/marketing position(s) within the Beauty Therapy – Skin Care/Pharmaceutical/Medical or Cosmetic industries and have knowledge of skin care treatments and products.

DUTIES Develop, implement and control effective strategies to.
[1] Increase sales of services offered by our own Beauty Clinic.
[2] Establish a significant market share with skin care professionals nationwide for a new international brand range of premium skin treatment products for which we are the exclusive Philippine distributors
[3] Conduct product training for our own therapists, sales persons and skin care customers in the use of the above range.

REWARDS An income package will be negotiated that will reflect the importance of this appointment to the future development of our company

TO APPLY Firstly if you feel you have the qualities to make a success of this position, register your interest by contacting Ms. Abis at our office and obtain an expanded description of this opportunity. Final applications must be made in writing and include your full contact details. Curriculum Vitae, Transcript of records, copies of education certificates etc. , two commercial, plus two personal character references and a recent full length photo. These can be forwarded by either post or e-mail. Interviews will be conducted with suitable applicants, end of February, early March.

ANIMUR SALES, INC.
2nd Floor MG Building, 150 Amorsolo Street Legaspi Village Makati City
Telephone 815-0029, 815-0037 E-mail animursales@yesis.com

MANAGERIAL/TECH'L/PROF'L

HSBC

The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited, with operations in the Philippines since 1875, is part of one of the world's leading and most strongly capitalised banking and financial services institutions.

We are seeking applications from highly motivated, committed and sales and service-oriented individuals who wish to pursue a career in banking as:

PERSONAL BANKING OFFICER & FINANCIAL ADVISOR

Be part of HSBC's dynamic team of direct sales professionals in Personal Financial Services. You will be responsible for soliciting and converting quality sales leads into new clients of the Bank, in both deposit and loan products and services. As a Personal Banking Officer/Financial Advisor, you will proactively visit and make sales calls to win new business and work with our branches to support sales initiatives.

We are inviting applications from people with the following qualifications:

- College degree from a top university (MBA an advantage)
- 3 years experience in retail banking, insurance, stock brokerage, other financial services, or real estate sales
- Knowledge of credit and the consumer loan market
- Strong communication, presentation and interpersonal skills
- Proven sales track record of personal financial services products
- Good network of contacts
- Philippine citizenship (this is a requirement)

Qualified applicants will undergo a selection process which includes a series of tests and interviews.

Executive training, an automated work environment, and an attractive remuneration package which recognises and rewards performance await qualified candidates.

If you can commit to a high pressure but rewarding career in sales and be part of the HSBC's 126 years of financial service excellence in the Philippines, send a full curriculum vitae, transcript of records and a recent 2x2 photograph, together with a letter outlining your suitability for the above position on or before 15 February 2002 to:

Vice President
Resourcing and Development
HSBC
The Enterprise Center Tower I
6766 Ayala Avenue cor Paseo de Roxas
Makati City

NOTE: TELEPHONE QUERIES WILL NOT BE ENTERTAINED

A PRESTIGIOUS AND LEADING RESEARCH AGENCY AFFILIATED WITH THE LARGEST CUSTOMIZED RESEARCH ORGANIZATION IN THE WORLD INVITES AGGRESSIVE AND SELF-MOTIVATED INDIVIDUAL TO FILL THE FOLLOWING POST:

STATISTICAL SERVICES DIRECTOR

- ☑ Must possess a graduate degree in Statistics/ Applied Statistics or graduate degree in a course with heavy emphasis on Statistics such as Operations Research or Econometrics.
- ☑ Experience with SAS programming is essential.
- ☑ Knowledge of various bivariate and multivariate statistical techniques, including factor analysis, analysis of variance, multiple regression, logit, discriminant function analysis, cluster analysis, and conjoint analysis.
- ☑ Must be a good communicator and be able to write and present statistical findings about complex subject matter in general business terms.

INTERESTED PARTIES MAY SEND THEIR RESUMÉ TO:

The Human Resources Manager
10th Floor, OMM-Citra Building
San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center
Pasig City

Bantez Development Corporation

BANTEZ

We are inviting success driven individuals to fill in the vacant position of:

ACCOUNTANT

QUALIFICATIONS:

- ➢ Graduate of BS Accountancy
- ➢ Male, not more than 35 years old
- ➢ Must be able to complete full set of accounts
- ➢ With experience in Bank Reconciliation and Financial Statements preparation
- ➢ Result and deadline oriented, hardworking
- ➢ Can handle admin functions
- ➢ Can work with minimal supervision

Interested applicants may send their CV with photo, academic credentials or transcript of records to:

Human Resources Department
PSRC Building, Calbayog corner Kanlaon Streets
Highway Hills, Mandaluyong City
or E-mail your resumé at: w.suarez@psrc-ri.com.ph

syngenta

Syngenta Philippines, Inc., formed by the merger of "agribusiness sectors" of Novartis Agro and Zeneca, is the leading supplier of crop protection and seeds products, solutions and services in the country. We also proud ourselves of our very professional and synergistic workforce which add more value to the organization.

We are currently looking for a high caliber and exemplary individual who would assume the position of:

General Accounting Supervisor

(Seeds Division)

Responsibilities:
Our candidate is responsible for: (1) providing timely and accurate financial information for statutory and management purposes; (2) instituting effective accounting system; and (3) ensuring compliance with tax regulations.

Qualifications:

- Male or Female
- A bonafide college graduate of Accountancy, from a reputable university, a Certified Public Accountant, not over 35 years old.
- Equipped with at least (5) years supervisory experience with strong background on taxation, possesses excellent communication and analytical skills.
- Proficient in computer operations, knowledge in BPCS or SAP is an advantage.

A rewarding and competitive compensation and benefits package await the successful candidate. Interested parties may send their credentials to:

The Human Resource Department
9/F Salcedo Towers, 169 HV Dela Costa St.,
Salcedo Village, Makati City

Or email at team.hr@syngenta.com
You can also call us through 843-5121 local 7255
or fax us at 817-9862.

UNIBANCARD CORPORATION

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Unibancard Corporation is among the top five credit card companies in the Philippines, being one of the pioneer companies in the industry. It is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Metrobank Group, currently the largest financial conglomerate in the country.

As part of its goal to remain highly competitive in the market and improve its service to its cardholders, the company is looking for high-caliber candidates who could fill in the following positions:

CUSTOMER SERVICE OFFICER
COLLECTION OFFICER

- ➢ With at least 2 years experience in customer service or collection function
- ➢ Excellent analytical skills and sound judgment
- ➢ Excellent customer communication skills

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

- ➢ Minimum three (3) years experience especially in the following areas:
  - ✓ product development
  - ✓ corporate communication
  - ✓ advertising and promotion
- ➢ Excellent presentation skills

ACCOUNTING STAFF
COMPLIANCE ASSISTANTS

- ➢ Graduate of Accounting or business course
- ➢ With knowledge in reconciliation
- ➢ Good analytical skills

PROGRAMMERS

- ➢ Preferably a BS Computer Science graduate
- ➢ 2 years programming experience in Visual Basic using MS SQL Server and MS Access as backend
- ➢ Experience in application development using MS Outlook and Exchange Server would be an advantage

ALL CANDIDATES ARE EXPECTED TO HAVE THE FOLLOWING QUALIFICATIONS:

- ☑ A graduate of a 4-year business related course
- ☑ Above-average verbal and written communication skills
- ☑ Hardworking, goal-oriented with a driver for "success" and "excellence"
- ☑ Willing to be involved in a constantly fast-paced work environment
- ☑ Strong leadership abilities
- ☑ Self-motivated and able to work independently as well as in a team
- ☑ Computer literate

Interested applicants may submit their comprehensive resumé, recent 2x2 photo, and official transcript of records to:

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
UNIBANCARD CORPORATION
16th Floor, PS Bank Tower
Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati
Telephone Number 845-0101 local 4607 or 906

A WELL ESTABLISHED FIRST CLASS RETAIL COMPANY IS IN NEED OF TOP CALIBER INDIVIDUALS TO APPLY AS

INFORMATION SYSTEMS AUDITOR

Code: R - ISA

- At least 28 years of age, male or female
- Graduate of a four (4)-year degree course
- With at least two (2) years actual work exposure in Information Systems or IS Audit
- With external or internal audit job experience
- Analytical and must have good communication skills
- Must possess a pleasing and dynamic personality, positive work attitude, impeccable integrity and good moral character
- Highly motivated and results-oriented
- Must be hardworking

Please send your application documents with contact numbers indicated, transcript of records and a recent 2x2 photo to:

BOX 100
c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer
Classified Ads Division
5th Floor, Bldg., B, Megamall
Mandaluyong City

(Only qualified applicants will be scheduled for an interview)
PLEASE USE POSITION CODE

CED MANPOWER & GENERAL SERVICES, INC.

RM. 202B IDC PLAZA, Zapote St. Cor. Kalayaan Ave., Makati City
TEL. NO.: 895-6987

URGENTLY NEEDED

Apply personally with NBI, Picture (2x2) & Resumé/Biodata at:

HEAVY EQUIPMENT MECHANIC - M, at least 45 y.o. must be familiar in container van tractors, repair and overhaul, knowledgeable in diesel engine: transmission, brakes & engine, at least 5 years exp.

DIESEL MECHANIC - M, at least 40 y.o., familiar with stationary and marine engines, minimum of 3 years exp.

ACCTG. CLERK - M/F, graduate of Accounting pref. with exp.

PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR - M, grad. ME/ Ind. Eng'r., computer literate, knowledgeable in machine shop, to carry out various industrial plant equipment parts fabrication and repair such as pump compressors blowers, shafting, impellers, rollers, conveyor, internal combustion engines components repair and fabrication.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY - F, at least 35 y.o., computer literate with exp. in sales, 1 year exp., good in correspondence, with pleasing personality and good comm. skills

PROPERTY/PROCUREMENT OFFICER - M, with knowledge in internal combustion engine parts.

PLATINUM PLANS PHIL., INC.

Send your resumé in MS Word or Text format by email to executive_search@platinumplans.com (or) all-aces@platinumplans.com fax it to 6303596. You may also call 6372818 for a confidential discussion or text us at 0919-4513487. Alternatively, you can send your resumé by postal mail with your latest photo or visit us at 1007 B West Tektite Tower, Philippine Stock Exchange, Pasig.

COLLECTION & CUSTOMER SERVICE HEAD

You are tasked with managing, developing and improving strategies for the over-all operation of the billing and collection, as well as the customer service operations of the company.

- Graduate of a 4-year course, preferably Business Administration
- Has prior experience in pre-need or insurance, in billing & collecting plan installments & the like
- Preferably with Customer Service work related experience
- Has good analytical and numerical skills
- Has above-average written and oral communication skills
- Willing to travel to provincial branches

Senior Executive level position, compensation package is open.

HUMAN RESOURCES GROUP HEAD

Reporting to the President, you are responsible for the overall operation of the HR Group of the company by overseeing all facets of human resource management and development, seeing to it that it is responsive to the employee's career needs and the company's business interests.

- Graduate of a 4-year course in business, psychology or management, preferably with relevant master's degree.
- Extensive work experience in HR at a senior officer level, preferably with 5-year work in HR Management and Development.
- Knowledgeable in all facets of HR Management and Development.
- Experience in insurance, pre-need or related financial services industry, preferred.
- Highly dynamic and adaptable, a strong team player with very good interpersonal skills; must be personable and assertive.
- Have excellent oral and written communication skills; preferably with good presentation skills.
- Computer literate, hands-on skills in word processors, spreadsheet, database and presentation software, preferred.

Senior Executive level position, compensation package is open.

Habitat for Humanity Philippines Foundation, Inc.

We are a non-profit, ecumenical Christian housing ministry affiliated with Habitat for Humanity International. We are currently looking for experienced and qualified candidates with a sense of mission for the following positions:

PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER (Code: PRO)

to handle the Foundation's tri-media publicity plans as well as develop and write in-house publications and other communication materials.

Qualifications:

- Graduate of Mass Communications, Journalism, or related courses, between 23-30 years old
- 3-5 years solid experience in PR work, in developing and implementing tri-media publicity activities including press conferences, preferably with exposure in development or cause-oriented projects
- Excellent skills in writing publicity materials, able to develop publicity plans, computer literate especially with publishing software
- Must be sociable and organized, able to work under pressure
- Applicants should submit samples of their published written work and references who can vouch for their capabilities

ACCOUNTANT (Code: ACCT)

to oversee the financial administration of grant funds.

Qualifications:

- Graduate of Accounting, with 3-5 years related work experience, preferably with exposure in handling EU or USAID grant funds, between 23-30 years old
- Must have hands-on experience working with Accounting software
- Willing to engage in a project-based contract, can work long hours, willing to travel

Qualified candidates may send no later than February 15 their application with an updated and complete resumé and transcript of records to:

The Human Resources Manager
2102 Jollibee Plaza Bldg., Emerald Ave.
Ortigas Center, 1605 Pasig City
(Please indicate CODE)
E-mail: HR@habitat.org.ph

Connectivity Unlimited Resources Enterprise (CURE), Inc.

People and Finance Department (code: PMT)
Connectivity Unlimited Resources Enterprise (CURE), Inc.
Unit 302, Summit One Bldg.
530 Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City 1501
Or E-mail: jobs@cureinc.com

Is in need of...

PART TIME MARKETING TRAINEES (CODE: PMT)

Requirements:

- ○ Male or Female, at least 18 years old, high school level
- ○ Outgoing, and with a pleasant disposition
- ○ Talks well, and good looking

The Job:

- ○ Will form part of our Events Team
- ○ Will man our school tour, mall tour, other events sponsorship, i.e., concerts, parties, etc. in various parts of Luzon

Compensation:

- ○ Hourly compensation
- ○ Food and transportation allowance provided

Get the chance to EARN, and LEARN while having FUN ☺ ☺ ☺ !!!
HURRY!!! Join our MARKETING TEAM now!!!

EDPITAF

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS
IMPLEMENTING TASK FORCE

BULLETIN OF VACANT POSITIONS

REGULAR:

(2) ACCOUNTANT II - SG 15; Item Nos. OSEC-DECSB-A2-17-1998 and OSEC-DECSB-A2-18-1998; Bachelor's degree in Commerce/Business Administration, major in Accounting; 1 year relevant experience; 4 hours of relevant training; Eligibility: RA 1080.

(3) ACCOUNTANT I - SG 11; Item Nos. OSEC-DECSB-A2-15-1998, OSEC-DECSB-A2-16-1998, and OSEC-DECSB-A2-17-1998; Bachelor's degree in Commerce/Business Administration, major in Accounting; Eligibility: RA 1080; experience and training none required.

CONTRACTUAL:

(1) ENGINEER III - SG 19; Item No. EFIP 5; Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering relevant to the job; 2 years relevant experience; 8 hours of relevant training; Eligibility: RA 1080.

(2) ENGINEER II - SG 16; Item Nos. EFIP 6-2 and EFIP 6-3; Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering; 1 year relevant experience; 4 hours of relevant training; Eligibility: RA 1080.

Qualified applicants may send their resumé, diploma/transcript of records, recent ID picture and other credentials to:

HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT OFFICE
DepEd - EDPITAF
Dorm-D, DepEd Complex
Meralco Avenue, Pasig City

Deadline for submission of application is on February 15, 2002.

ATTENTION!!

CARTOONISTS, ARTISTS, AND ILLUSTRATORS

Be part of the design team of a WELL-KNOWN MANUFACTURER OF BRANDED CHILDREN'S PRODUCTS.

REQUIREMENTS:

- ➪ Graduate of Fine Arts, Graphic Design, Advertising, or any art or design related courses.
- ➪ Ability to create and illustrate cartoon images and children's characters.
- ➪ Skills in all types of creative media, i.e. pencil, ink, water color, poster color, etc.
- ➪ Must be creative, artistic, and hardworking.
- ➪ Knowledge of Illustrator, Photoshop, PageMaker, Freehand, etc. in Mac or PC will be an advantage.

Applicants must be between 18 to 30 years old and preferably a born-again Christian. We specially welcome candidates who reside in Quezon City, Caloocan, Bulacan areas or Northern parts of Metro Manila. Please send your resumé with cover letter, recent ID photo, photocopied of Transcript of Records, photocopied samples of your artwork, and your phone number to:

P.O. Box 408
Greenhills, San Juan 1502
Metro Manila

A MEDICAL EQUIPMENT DISTRIBUTOR OF A WORLD KNOWN OPTPO-ELECTRONICS MANUFACTURER IS LOOKING FOR QUALIFIED APPLICANTS FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS:

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES SALES REPRESENTATIVE

- ○ Male / Female, at least 24-35 years old
- ○ Preferably a graduate of a medical related course
- ○ Resourceful, hardworking and with good morals
- ○ Good oral and written communication skills

TECHNICIAN

- ○ Must be a fresh graduate of a technical course
- ○ Capable of interpreting technical manuals
- ○ Good oral and written communication skills

Qualified candidates should mail their application letter, comprehensive resumé with a 2x2 photo and telephone number to:

P.O. Box 2176, Makati City

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

The country's leading newspaper is looking for:

NETWORK ENGINEER

- College graduate preferably Computer Engineering or ECE
- 1-2 years related experience
- Concepts in Computer Networking
- Email & Internet Administration
- Linux, Novell NetWare and Windows NT/2000 Operating Systems

NIGHT EDITOR

- Mass Communication graduate major in Journalism
- 5 years experience in newspaper journalism
- 2 years experience in editing stories and designing/ layouting pages
- Familiar with editorial operations in a publishing

CORPORATE RELATIONS ASSISTANT

- Graduate of Mass Communication or any related course
- At least 1 year experience on this job or jobs leading to it
- Basic computer/office software operation, writing skills, presentation skills

Mail your application letter, comprehensive resumé to:

HR MANAGEMENT SERVICES HEAD
Philippine Daily Inquirer
Chino Roces Avenue
(formerly Pasong Tamo)
Corner Yague and Mascardo Streets,
Makati City

E-mail: recruitment@inquirer.com.ph

MANAGERIAL/TECHNICAL/PROFESSIONAL

We are a foreign bank with an immediate opening for a:

PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

He/She must be a top caliber professional who will be mainly responsible for the development/conceptualization and implementation of new product lines and/or services of the Bank.

Candidates must have a minimum of five (5) years work experience in product development, preferably with a financial institution; expertise in retail or consumer products; tested managerial competencies; and good oral and written communication skills.

For qualified applicants, we offer a competitive compensation package and tremendous opportunities for career growth and development.

Interested candidates may send their application letter, comprehensive resume and recent 2 x 2 photograph to:

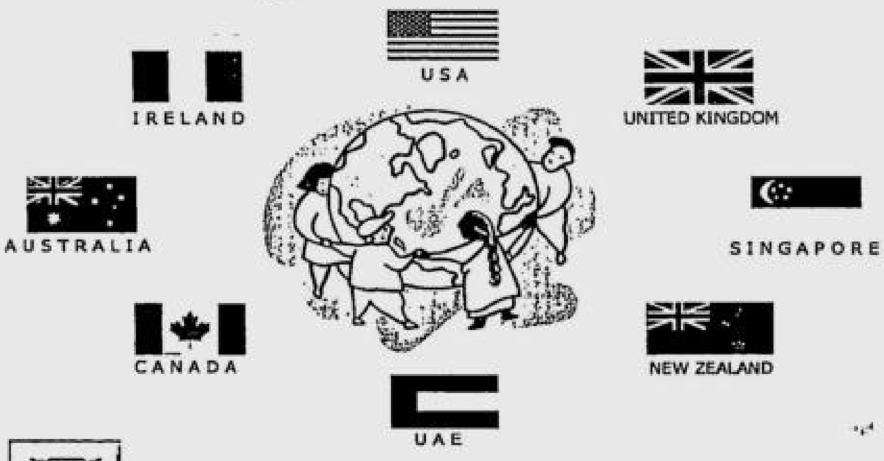
P.O. BOX 4035
MANILA

All applications will be treated with utmost confidentiality.

FOXTECH 2000 PLACEMENT SERVICES

321 Orchard Rd., #09-06 Orchard Shopping Center, Singapore 238866
Tel: (65) 835-2000 Fax: (65) 834-2000

Nursing and Healthcare Recruitment



Inviting all Nurses in different areas of specialization to explore career opportunities and global exposures!

Qualified Candidates would be considered for IMMIGRANT STATUS

.Medical - Surgical .Pediatric .Obstetrics - Gynecology .Cardiology

.Neo-natal ICU ICU - NICU .Accident & Emergency .Renal Care. Dialysis

Send your resume to: **Joy Franje** Email: joy@foxtech2000.com H/P: **0916-4261861**

Singapore-based representatives will be coming over to conduct interviews.
Interested candidates should email their contact details and resume, ASAP!

The Source of Quality Healthcare Professionals.

A WELL ESTABLISHED FIRST CLASS RETAIL COMPANY IS IN NEED OF TOP CALIBER INDIVIDUALS TO APPLY AS

FINANCIAL ANALYSTS

- ➢ Between 21 to 35 years old
- ➢ Accounting graduate, computer literate
- ➢ Proficient in oral and written communication with analytical ability
- ➢ Preferably with related work experience
- ➢ Willing to work beyond regular office hours

SECRETARIES

- ➢ Female, at least 25 years old
- ➢ Graduate of any 4-year business course
- ➢ Knowledge in secretarial services
- ➢ Must have excellent oral and written communication skills
- ➢ Must possess a pleasing and dynamic personality
- ➢ Must be computer literate

HRM STAFF

- ➢ Female, between 21 to 28 years old
- ➢ BS Psychology graduate or any related course
- ➢ With good verbal and written communication skills
- ➢ Computer literate
- ➢ Honest, hardworking and with good human relations skills
- ➢ Must possess a pleasing and dynamic personality

NURSE

- ➢ Female, Nursing graduate
- ➢ At least 21 to 25 years old
- ➢ Preferably with experience
- ➢ Computer literate

ARTISTS

- ➢ Male, between 21 to 30 years old
- ➢ Fine Arts or Interior Design graduate
- ➢ With creative skills in drawing, lettering, silk screening, flower arranging, etc.
- ➢ Willing to work beyond working hours

MAKE-UP ARTISTS

- ➢ Male, Female, Gay, between 21 to 30 years old
- ➢ Graduate of any 4-year Business course
- ➢ At least 5'2" in height with pleasing personality and clear complexion
- ➢ Preferably with skin care experience/Cosmetology background
- ➢ Good in oral communication skills

BEAUTY THERAPISTS

- ➢ Female, between 21 to 25 years old
- ➢ 5'2" and above in height
- ➢ With pleasing personality and clear complexion
- ➢ Graduate of Nursing or Physical Therapy
- ➢ With good communication skills

BEAUTY CONSULTANTS

- ➢ Female, between 21 to 28 years old
- ➢ Graduate of any 4-year Business-related course
- ➢ At least 5'2" in height with pleasing personality and clear complexion
- ➢ Preferably with skin care experience/Cosmetology background
- ➢ Good in oral communication skills

SALES ASSOCIATES

- ➢ Between 21 to 28 years old
- ➢ Graduate of any 4-year Business-related course
- ➢ At least 5'2" in height with clear complexion
- ➢ Must have initiative, ability and sustained interest in selling
- ➢ Must possess a pleasing and dynamic personality
- ➢ Good in oral communication skills

HVAC TECHNICIAN

- ➢ Male, not over 30 years old
- ➢ Graduate of Mechanical Engineering
- ➢ At least 3 years related work experience

ELECTRICIAN

- ➢ Male, at least 25 to 28 years old
- ➢ Graduate of Electrical Engineering
- ➢ Must have worked as an Electrician or Maintenance Staff for at least 2 years
- ➢ Must have skills in trouble shooting of different kinds of office equipment
- ➢ Willing to work beyond working hours

DRIVER

- ➢ Male, not over 35 years old
- ➢ With at least two (2) years Professional Driver's License
- ➢ Knowledge in troubleshooting/auto-mechanics an advantage

BOX 100
c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer
5th Floor, Building B, SM Megamall
Mandaluyong City

Bandag

Our company is the undisputed leader in the retread industry. We are the franchise dealer of the World's No. 1 cold process retreads. Our plants and sales offices are strategically located nationwide. We are in the retreading business for the past three (3) decades.

To further strengthen our market leadership and scale new heights, as we meet increasing market demands, we need top caliber aspirants for the position of

AREA SALES REP

(Entry position for Service Franchisee)

- ➢ Male, 25-35 years old
- ➢ College graduate
- ➢ Outgoing and resourceful
- ➢ Good conversational and negotiation skills
- ➢ An entrepreneurial person
- ➢ With professional driver's license
- ➢ Preferably residents of NCR, Laguna, Bulacan, Cebu, Cagayan de Oro and Davao City
- ➢ Capable of posting property/cash bond

Successful applicants will have the opportunity to earn an advantage of P50,000.00 per month.

FOR LUZON: Apply personally at MMRI (Bandag), Km. 19, A. Rodriguez Avenue, Manggahan, Pasig City. Tel. Nos.: 646-2185; 681-5502 (fax) 900-2215.

FOR VISMIN: Apply at Central Phils. Bandag, Inc., HVG Arcade, Subangdaku, Mandaue City. Tel. Nos.: (032) 346-0172; 345-0023 (fax) 346-5825.

ADB

Fighting Poverty in Asia & the Pacific

Asian Development Bank's overarching goal is to reduce poverty and improve the quality of life of people in the Asian & Pacific region.

ASSOCIATE DATA COMMUNICATIONS ANALYST

The Position

- Responsible for planning, implementing and maintaining ADB's Network Operating Center (NOC);
- Evaluates and recommends Enterprise Management System (EMS) and NOC tools and/or best practices available in the market;
- Coordinates with other departments in EMS-related projects;
- Develops appropriate documentation procedures on systems and procedures related to EMS and NOC;
- Manages Change Control procedures related to network operations;
- Monitors, assesses and recommends improvements on LAN and WAN operations; and
- Maintains and ensures smooth daily network operations.

The Requirements

- University degree in MIS, Computer Science, Computer Engineering or related fields;
- At least six years' experience in a network-support environment with at least three years directly on EMS or NOC projects;
- Adeptness with EMS and network monitoring tools such as HP Openview, Cisco Works, Tivoli, Patrol or Unicenter;
- In-depth knowledge of switching technology (layer 3), LAN and WAN architecture and TCP/IP and SNMP protocols;
- Familiarity with the installation, configuration and troubleshooting of Cisco equipment;
- Working knowledge of MS Office, Lotus Notes and Visio;
- Familiarity with WindowsNT. / Windows2000 installation and administration;
- MCSE and/or Cisco Certifications would be an advantage; and
- Good organization and communication skills.

Established in 1966 and headquartered in Manila, Philippines, ADB's multicultural staff come from about 50 member countries. ADB's Headquarters in Manila generally recruits its support staff locally from the Philippines. The position is for a three-year fixed-term appointment. ADB offers a highly competitive salary and benefits package applicable to local staff. While the position advertised is for the ADB Headquarters in Manila, Philippines, ADB staff must be prepared to serve in any location outside the Headquarters at the discretion of Management. For further information, visit www.adb.org.

Send CV/resume and cover letter by fax, mail or e-mail. An online form is available at ADB's website. Quote Ref. No. 02-02 by 15 February 2002 to:

Tel: (63-2) 632-4444
Fax: (63-2) 636-2550
E-mail: jobs@adb.org

HUMAN RESOURCES DIVISION
ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK
P.O. BOX 789, 0980 MANILA, PHILIPPINES

Women are actively encouraged to apply.

Only shortlisted candidates will be notified.

The leading franchise management organization is in need of result-driven individuals for its 2002 business expansion plan to function as...

ACA FRANCHISE GROUP

WE BUILD BUSINESSES.

SALES EXECUTIVES

The Qualifications:

- 20-27 years old, preferably Female / Single
- Graduate from reputable / exclusive schools
- Attractive / Pleasing personality
- Excellent communication and selling skills
- Strong business and social connections
- Goal-Driven and Performance-Oriented
- Ability to drive and willing to travel is an advantage
- Computer literate

The Offer:

- High Monthly Basic Salary
- PLUS earn as much as **P50,000.00** from individual sales incentives
- Car Plan Options

LEASING/SITE COORDINATOR

Male or Female, 25-30 years old
Minimum of three (3) years experience as Leasing/Site Coordinator who is adept and familiar in:
- Site sourcing
- Assessing the viability of the site
- Preparation of feasibility studies to analysis of research data

Patient, thorough, hardworking
Excellent public relations and communication skills
Computer literate
Graduate of B.S. Management is preferred or its relevant work experience is an advantage

Be part of the
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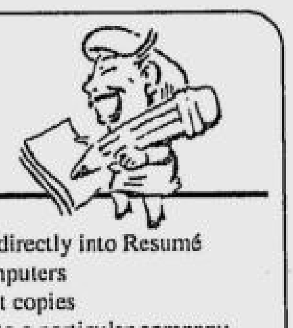

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INQUIRER
GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE
February 10, 2002

Gina Alajar

On Her Own

By Ansel Beluso

GINA Alajar promised herself she's not going to cry this Valentine's Day, though it may be the most natural thing for her to do. She's determined to be brave, holding on to her faith in God to see her through. But she knows it's going to be tough. February 14, 2002 is her first Valentine alone since she and husband Michael De Mesa finally called it quits 11 months ago. The date also marks what would have been their 24th wedding anniversary.

Tougher still is the fact that Gina still cannot go out and party with friends. Three weeks ago, she went under the knife to seek relief from adenomyosis, the swelling of her uterus wall, that also meant profuse bleeding and severe pain during her monthly periods. The ailment was first diagnosed three years ago, but the couple decided to put off the recommended hysterectomy to try for another baby. "In 1999, I had an ectopic pregnancy," confides Gina. "The doctors again advised surgery, but we really wanted another baby."

Instead, what they had were serious problems in their marriage that eventually resulted in separation. Meanwhile, her monthly pains became so severe they started affecting her work. "I'd be forced to ask to be replaced or have my tapings or shootings packed up, because I couldn't even stand due to the pain," she recounts. Gina finally decided to have the operation. It would get rid of her suffering and give her the much needed time to heal not just physically, but emotionally, as well.

"I'm happy now," she declares four days before her surgery. "I'm done with tears. And I'm finished with asking endless questions like: 'Why? Could it have been my fault, too? Were there things I should or shouldn't have done? Would things have turned out differently?'"

Gina calls the separation an answered prayer. "During those long nights, I prayed to God not to bring Michael and me back again, but to take the pain away. And that's what happened. Slowly, He blew the pain away."

Gina's sons Ryan, 24, Jeffrey, 18, and AJ, 16, spent last Christmas eve with their dad in the latter's condo in Pasig City while Gina slept the night away in the family home in BF Homes, Parañaque. When she woke up Christmas morning, she cried. But she vowed those would be the last tears to ever stain her face.

She and Michael have remained friends. In their first months of separation, both tried to make things work. "But the more we tried to repair the relationship, the more it fell apart. We always ended up quarreling worse than ever before. So we eventually accepted the futility of it and became better friends."

It was futile, says Gina, to expect her husband to change. "Michael is a chronic philanderer," Gina says matter-of-factly. "He admitted as much to me, that he couldn't even promise he won't do it again. At least he was honest. But his admission also made it very clear to me that our marriage is over."

Ironically, what became the last straw wasn't even true. The rumor of an affair between Michael and a certain VJ was just that – a rumor. But the one before that, which linked him with a co-star in a soap opera, wasn't unfounded.

Gina says she and Michael have separated more times than the number of years that they've been married. But they'd get back together because each time Michael would promise to observe their marital vows. Now things are different. Fully aware of his human weakness and not wanting to hurt his wife further with more lies, Michael

To page 2

She's had it, says Gina Alajar of her tumultuous 24-year marriage to actor Michael de Mesa. But life goes on for this multi-awarded actress who's determined to spend Valentine's Day alone, but certainly not lonely

With ex-husband Michael de Mesa

CONTENTS

Regulars

Letters 2
Poetry *by Teo T. Antonio* 2
End Page Once More to Civilize and Christianize? *by Jonathan Best* 6
This Week 7
Pinoy Nga! *Valentines by Jess Abrera* 7
Poetry *by Felino S. Garcia Jr.* 7

Features

Cover Story
On Her Own *by Ansel Beluso* 1
Actress Gina Alajar goes on, alone but not lonely

Controversies
Love and Sex in the Time of Revolution *by Pennie Azarcon-dela Cruz* 3
Here are the Left's rules on love and sex

Artwatch
Marrying Art and Life *by Joy Rojas* 4
Alfredo and Isabel Aquilizan's finest work is their marriage

Seen on TV
Perfect Partners *by Tinna S. Bonifacio* 5
Tintin Bersola and Julius Babao have their future life together all planned out

Twists of Fate
The Ballad of Bel and Osang *by Ina Alleco R. Silverio* 8
Labor leader Crispin Beltran has fought for 45 years with wife Osang by his side

Gina Alajar

... From page 1

has decided to stop giving promises he isn't sure he can keep.

But while Michael views his struggle to turn away from other women as his cross and expects his wife to carry her own cross by continuing to support him, Gina thinks otherwise. As far as she is concerned, the vow of fidelity is one of the pillars of marriage. When a husband betrays that vow, the marriage ceases to exist.

"I'd like to say that I've already forgiven him," says this former child actress, carefully weighing her words. "But then, at my age, I'm now 42, I deserve the reassurance that it won't happen again. I told myself, it's much better to break up with him now that I can still afford it and can fend for myself and plan my future. Because if I choose to stay in the marriage and he does it again 10 to 15 years from now, I don't think I'll be able to break up with him. Which means I'll be trapped in a joyless marriage for the rest of my life."

It was different in 1987 when she and Michael became born-again Christians and decided to recommit themselves to their marriage, she muses. "That was the start of the happy years," Gina recalls. "God made everything right and we became a truly happy family. Michael, to my knowledge, was faithful. Of course, when I think about it now, he must have been either very careful or very lucky that I didn't catch him."

It was only much later, she adds, when they were already separated that she confirmed the affair he had with a character actress. "When I confronted them initially, they both denied it. And I believed them. But quite recently, I texted the actress, 'I know what you and Michael had.' She texted me back, 'I'm very sorry.' So there. If there had been one indiscretion, there could have been more."

Gina is thankful that the children are taking the separation quite well. "When Michael told Ryan about it, my son just said, 'Sh-t happens.' All three stay with me. When I asked Ryan if he wanted to live with his dad, or find a pad of his own, he chose to stay with me."

Gina ponders a solo life

With children (left to right) Ryan, Jeff and AJ Eigenmann

But Gina discloses that she's already bracing herself for the time when her children would have a life and family of their own. "I've thought about the very real possibility of living the rest of my life alone. But I'm quite sure I won't be unhappy. I have my friends. We can party, watch movies, sing our hearts out at the KTV bars, go ballroom dancing, or just visit each other's homes and while the time away trading stories and memories. I also have my work. That's what I always pray to God for. That He may not only provide for me materially but also give me fulfillment through my work."

And does she see another man in her future?

Gina laughs. Such things are farthest from her mind, she says. In fact, she's not even thinking of filing an annulment petition in the courts. "I consult a lot of Christian friends, trying to discern what God really wants for me at this point in my life. I do believe in miracles. But again, if you ask me, there's nothing that can make me change my mind and give my marriage to Michael another go. I hear stories that he's now with this or that woman and I'm not surprised. I'm not hurt anymore. I guess I'll be shocked if I hear that he's celibate now.

"So I'm enjoying my freedom right now," says Gina. "I'm enjoying the space. But I pray for him — especially because he's very ill. He has hepatitis C. It's as deadly as hepatitis B but it's not communicable."

Asked what advice she'd give her sons should they find the women of their dreams, this multi-awarded actress ponders: "I'd tell them what NOT to do. First, not to rush to the altar and later conveniently cite lack of preparation as an excuse for a bad marriage. I'll also tell them not to hurt their wife physically. Ever. If they do that, they'll have to settle the score with me. And they should never blame their wife for whatever it is that's happening to them. They have to know how to own up to their mistakes. And yes, I'll tell them to take their marital vows very seriously. They should not be unfaithful, ever. This is what ruined our marriage."

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The Cover Image

Gina Alajar is a survivor beyond the screen

TRUE HERO

I READ something in this magazine about a man named Albert Garcia ("Freeze Fame," **SIM**, 27 January 2002) who was able to confront death on account of his loyalty to his job. He was a photographer, and it was that easy.

Mount Pinatubo, as we all know, erupted in the '90s, and it was a true disaster. Thousands of people who lived in that place died, buried alive under the ash. It's a very painful thing to say, but we could do nothing. Nobody could stop that volcano from erupting. It was as inevitable as eating and sh—ing. We just stood and waited for that calamity to stop. Nobody can bring life back to the way it was before.

Through the eyes of this man, we were able to witness the disaster. He should have died there, if fate allowed that to happen. He is worthy of being called a local hero. He was ready to sacrifice his life just to take his best shot of what was happening, and it was a success. Like a soldier who fought in a battle, Mr. Garcia is a true man of honor, submitting himself to the task assigned to him.

This is an article full of inspiration. I wish you all the luck in continuing the good and challenging job.

EMMANUEL TIO
ect460@netscape.net

NEXT SHOT, ALBERT

I REALLY enjoyed reading your article on Albert Garcia's Pinatubo picture ("Freeze Fame," **SIM**, 27 January 2002). Mr. Garcia could have gotten his "Next Shot" if he were in Afghanistan while the American bombing raged: fleeing Taliban, especially those heroin traffickers, would have been a "Great Shot." Keep writing more interesting articles.

I really am a religious follower of the **Inquirer**'s Monday and Sunday issues. Beyond that, I have no money to spare. Thanks.

JONEL ABELLANOSA
Cebu City
magbabalak@yahoo.com

PLEASE

UH-OH! I just read that the **SIM** will come out in a broadsheet format. Tsk! Tsk! I hope you reconsider. I still prefer the current magazine format, since it's easier to compile in hardbound volumes (just like in libraries). Please! Please! Retain the **SIM** in its current magazine format.

MANNY L. VILLANUEVA
emvi@philonline.com

SIM changed format to be one with the rest of the newspaper, and to make the paper even more accessible to readers outside Luzon, as we can now be printed in Cebu and Davao. The contents haven't changed, though. Please keep reading! Please! – Ed.

IT'S BALLET PHILIPPINES

WE ARE indeed happy and proud to have Gino Gonzales ("Shaper of Things to Come," **SIM**, 27 January 2002) working for the continued development of the arts in the Philippines. This talented young man has a lot of fresh and innovative ideas to offer the art scene in the country today. This was exemplified by the set design he created for Ballet Philippines' (not Philippine Ballet Theater) production of "Shoes++" last October 2001 at the Cultural Center of the Philippines. We are once again looking forward to his unique design, as he will be Ballet Philippines' set and costume designer for its next season's production of Mars Ravelo's "Darna!"

JUVY ESPERANZA
PR Coordinator
Ballet Philippines
balletphilippines@axti.com

Poetry

Sa Aking Soledad

Ikaw ang may-ari ng aking kalungkutan,
dahil ipinagkatiwala mo,
ang lungkot na iyong nadarama.
Noo'y naglalaro tayo ng mga salita
at itinuturing itong biruan.
Samantalang para sa akin,
nagsasabi ako ng totoo.
Tinangay ng hanging amihan
ang ating paglalaro noon.
Hanggang magbinhi ng kataga
at salitang nakalulan sa pagmamahal
sa iyong puso. Ibig mo itong takasan,
ayaw tanggaping may sumisibol
na pag-ibig ang binibitiwang sumpa't pangako.
Pero, parang agos ang pagsinta
na tumatangay sa iyong damdamin
at ayaw harapin. Gustong sumalungat,
iwasan ang pananagutan sa salitang
pagmamahal. Dahil alam mo ngayon,
hindi na ito, biruan at paglalaro
tulad nang dati. Kailangang mamili at manindigan.
Maaaring itakwil mo ako,
o itakwil ang lahat para sa akin.
Binulag ang sarili,
nais dukutin ang puso at alisan ng tibok,
upang hindi maglagos sa pagkatao
ang lantay na pagmamahal.
Binalisa ang maraming gabi
ng iyong pagpapasya.
Dapat ba o hindi dapat magmahal?
Nilasing ng amihan ang habagat,
itinapon ang puso sa uli-uli ng malay.
Parang ayaw tanggapin ang katotohanan,
naroroon ako, saan man ibaling ang tingin,
sa dampi ng hamog sa umaga,
sa pag-ambon ng ulan sa bintana,
sa pag-uulayaw ng buwan at ulap,
sa pagbabalik ng alon sa pampang,
sa pagsikat at paglubog ng araw.
Hanggang lamunin ng dagat ang iyong puso
at magkasama tayong nalunod
sa halakhak ng mararahas na alon
at ngiti ng sinag ng bituin sa tilamsik ng tubig.
Ikinasal tayo ng malakas na ulan
at bigwas ng habagat. Natutuhang tanggapin
ang katotohanan ng salitang pagmamahal.

Teo T. Antonio

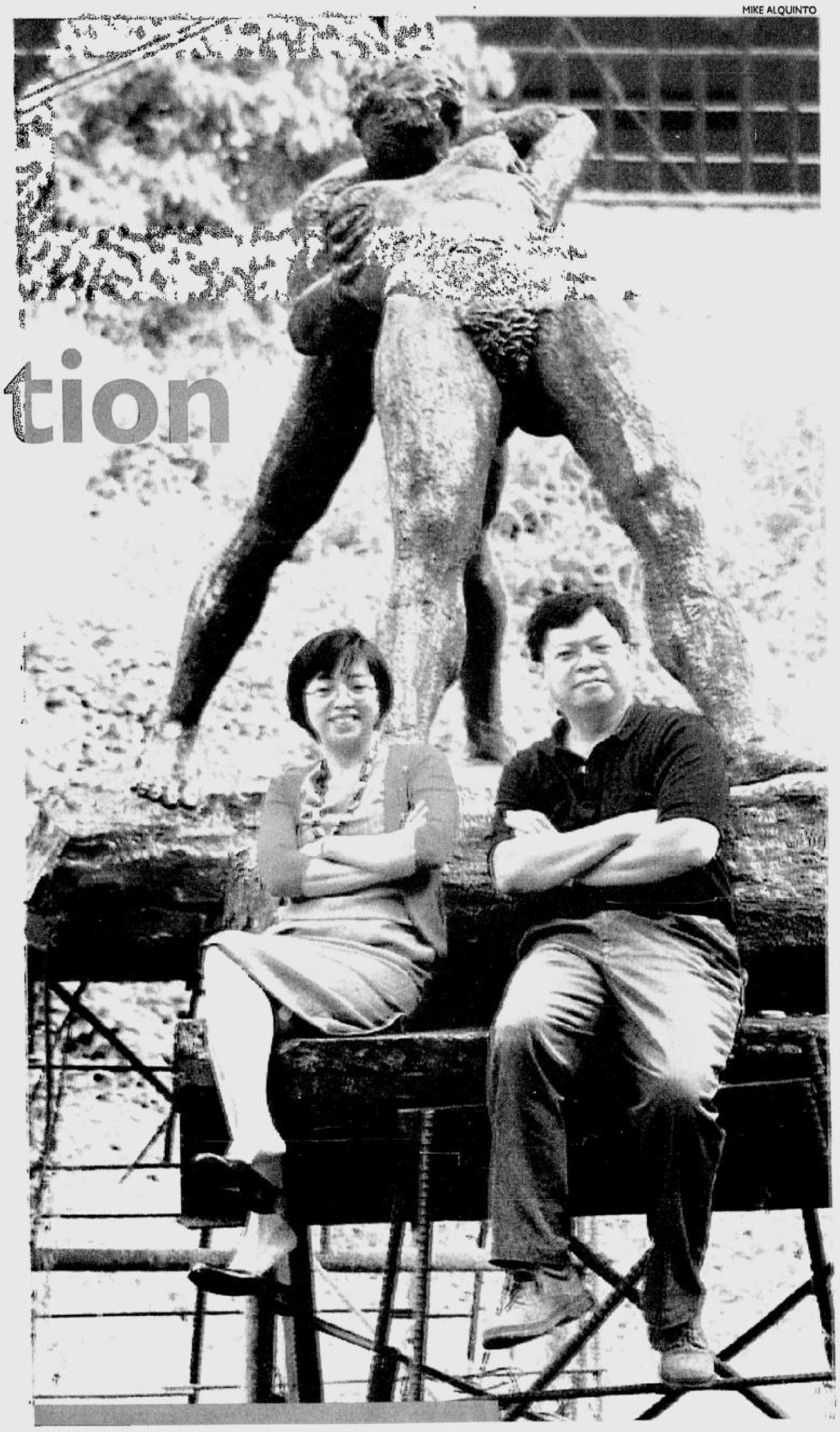
The Sunday Inquirer Magazine accepts contributions for our regular poetry section. Interested contributors should send a printed copy of the poem (which may be in English or Filipino) together with a self-addressed stamped envelope to Ruel S. De Vera, poetry editor, Sunday Inquirer Magazine, Chino Roces (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Mascardo and Yague Streets, Makati City 1263, or e-mail to <sim@inquirer.com.ph>

Controversies

by Pennie Azarcon-dela Cruz

Love and Sex in the Time of Revolution

MIKE ALQUINTO



Seeing red: Ferrer (left) and Abinales found some of the rules "too artificial"

Love is a many-splendored threat to the revolution, or so thinks the Left, which came up with a set of rules to regulate sexual relations among its cadres. Two former party members say why love transcends ideology

"IT WAS like having Mother Superior peering over your shoulders again," says Patricio N. Abinales of those days in the early '70s when holding hands and other public display of affection had to pass scrutiny by one's political comrades.

Abinales, a former seminarian and now associate professor of Southeast Asian Studies and Philippine Politics at Kyoto University, was a student activist in 1977, when units of the Communist Party of the Philippines and the National Democratic Front received a draft document that outlined how to conduct courtship under revolutionary conditions.

Titled "On the Relations of Sexes," the guidelines were said to be based on suggestions from CPP chair Jose Ma. Sison, says Abinales, who is writing a book on the subject. The draft, he adds, has since been retitled "On Marriage" and has, with some revisions, become Party policy in 1983.

"The Party is very clear about it: *Kung iibig ka, dapat nakatali sa rebolusyon*," says this recruit to the movement in the initial years of martial law. "You have the unavoidable situation of two revolutionaries falling in love but who must think of the revolution 24 hours a day. So the Party feels that it has to police sex and love as they have the potential to undermine the revolutionary movement. Love alone can cause anarchy. *Mabusisi iyan, sakit ng ulo.* To keep these anarchist and freewheeling tendencies under control, the Party requires cadres to follow a set of compulsory procedures for falling in love, starting with the proper way of courting."

Of course, he adds, such regulations also ensure that cadres are not distracted from the Party's "foremost goal to win military and political power."

Abinales, who was barely 18 when he joined the movement in 1974, recalls that the draft document "was also meant to lessen the tension between urban-bred intellectuals working in the countryside and the more conservative peasant sector."

Mariano S., a former member of the movement whose seniority gave him the unenviable role of implementing the guidelines in his collective, agrees. "The values of the *masa* must be upheld especially when it comes to premarital sex. Otherwise such behavior can isolate you from the very people you're working with."

The initial reaction to the guidelines was positive particularly among the women cadres, says Abinales, "since the early '70s also meant free love so there were questions on what free love meant in the context of the revolution." Yet there were some stirrings of discontent, he notes. "Some urban cadres and activists accepted the document's premise but remained critical of what they regarded as unwarranted Party interference in their private lives. Others questioned whether a revolutionary party's responsibility included fashioning an all-encompassing morality for its followers."

Says Mariano: "Each collective was left to interpret the rules, so there were confusion and private questions."

Miriam Ferrer, director of the University of the Philippines' Third World Studies Center, recalls her basic objection to the draft. "(The Party) considers the process of developing a relationship as very sequential, with one stage leading to the next. In reality, you relate to people in multiple layers of interaction," she notes. "Love is treated like the revolution or a protracted people's war, *na* defensive *ka muna bago* stalemate, *bago* offensive."

She found some of the rules "too artificial, like waiting for one's turn to court a comrade when it happens that several suitors are interested. Entertaining multiple suitors at the same time is not allowed."

Other rules are as contentious, says Abinales, who bristles at the breach of one's privacy, "this constant discussion of your relationship by your collective, as in *kailan kayo pwedeng mag*-meet *ng syota mo, ganun* (when you can date your girl, and so on)." Similarly, one needs the collective's permission to go courting. Even those intending to marry must seek the permission of their respective units before they can move into the next stage of their relationship. Relationships with non-party members are discouraged, but cadre-suitors have up to six months to recruit their loved ones.

Easily the most controversial rule in the ban on premarital sex.

"It was certainly the most discussed," agrees Ferrer. "Imagine yourself in a community of college students who were just beginning to discover their sexuality. Premarital sex was something that took place all over the world among people in their late teens or early 20s, so can you prevent that? But the Party guidelines are very strong on this. I thought, if a relationship goes through that phase, does it mean it's any less stable? There's no correlation between outcome and process in this case."

While he accepted the ruling because of his very Catholic upbringing, Mariano concedes that there were too many gray areas. "The rule could include foreplay or even holding hands, as this might fall under the phrase 'avoiding conditions that would lead to premarital sex.'" Comrades thus became very technical, observes Ferrer. "Since premarital sex meant actual intercourse, there were those who were very conscientious and would do everything short of that."

Another source of quiet dissent was the ban on homosexuality, which was regarded as deviant behavior. Gay comrades remained firmly in the closet while one or two, says Mariano, left the Party because of this homophobic stance.

The Party's "stress on a woman's virginity as a precondition to marriage" was another source of disappointment, says Abinales. "It's a throwback to the Catholic Church's conservative regard for sex," he notes. "By its very nature as a revolutionary movement, the CPP is anticipated to push for a more liberative definition of sexuality among women. But instead, it identifies sexuality as reflecting the 'decadent bourgeois and feudal cultures.' Cadres who lost their virginity are regarded as actual or potential recidivists. Apart from the standard penalties of demotion, suspension or outright expulsion from the movement, women who lose their virginity are encouraged to get married to their male comrades, especially if they get pregnant."

Such "unlikely respect for the hymen," says Abinales, has not warranted any candid or official explanation from the Party. He ventures one likely reason though: "The CPP's fear that premarital sex could lead to a pregnancy that could hamper a female cadre's revolutionary work, erode the Party's credibility as an organizaton of righteous people, and possibly tar the image of female cadres by showing them to be 'loose women.'

Julie, a veteran of the First Quarter Storm who remains active in the movement, cautions against such wholesale objections.

"You must remember that the guidelines were drafted in the context of the life and death struggle during those times and applicable only to members of the Party. Which meant that there is a certain commitment demanded of members and the discipline to follow Party regulations. At the same time, the Party was trying to develop a new level of relationship between the sexes. More than love for each other, one must have love for the class and the country."

She regards as "highly individualistic" concerns expressed about "undue Party interference into love affairs." "What is privacy when some people would even offer their lives for the country? *Buhay mo nga iaalay,* privacy *pa kaya?*"

TO be fair, says Abinales, there are liberating aspects in the guidelines, among them divorce "particularly when the marriage becomes an impediment to the couple's revolutionary involvement." Divorce, he adds, is also granted to couples in cases "where one of the parties is found to be guilty of infidelity, bigamy, cruelty and violence as well as willful abandonment. Or when the couple can no longer abide by the obligations of marriage because of a hostile environment, such as the inability to maintain contact due to counterinsurgency operations, or losing touch with each other for five years. A partner's permanent physical injury can also be used as a basis for divorce."

The document "On Marriage" is oddly precise about it, Abinales observes and quotes: "*Kung ang kapansanan ay sa utak at hindi gumagaling, pwedeng ipagkaloob ang diborsyo pagkaraan ng tatlong taon.* (When the disability involves the mental faculties, divorce can be granted after three years)"

For Ferrer, the most liberating guideline is that which allows women to go courting instead of passively waiting for men to make the move. "I have female acquaintances who took the initiative, and now the couples are married," she reveals.

To page 6

Artwatch

By Joy Rojas

Marrying Art and Life

VAL HANDUMON

CAN an unkempt room be art? Such was the case when Alfredo and Isabel Aquilizan – he a multi-media craftsman and visual arts instructor at Mt. Makiling's Philippine High School for the Arts, she an actress, singer and director – turned a portion of the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP) into a studio-sized replica of their home, then proceeded to live in the enclosed area with their five kids for the next 24 hours. More than just a slice of their own domestic life, the installation-performance art titled "Who's Gonna Clean The Toilet?" was the Aquilizans' way of presenting what they felt was a woman's role in society.

"I think art and life can't be separated," reasons Fred, an artist and husband round the clock. "The home has always been at the top of our concerns," affirms his better half Isabel. "We just happened to translate what happens at home to another space, like a gallery."

Everyday objects and other personal effects have also been used to address abstract, universal themes. Identity, history, family and community were the statements behind a Havana, Cuba-based exhibition of 100,000 used toothbrushes strewn all over the floor. The 1998 "Presences and Absences" enabled the couple to "reconnect" after Fred had been away in England to study for over a year through the act of installing photographs and items from the home on opposite ends of an exhibition room. And in "Crafting Economies," as the Philippine component of a collaborative project with Japan, the Aquilizans, together with outdoor activist-ecologist Futana Yoshihi, touch on contrasting shapes, materials and dwellings through Yoshihi's trademark organic wreaths, vines and branches from the Makiling forest, and statements on life from random interviewees.

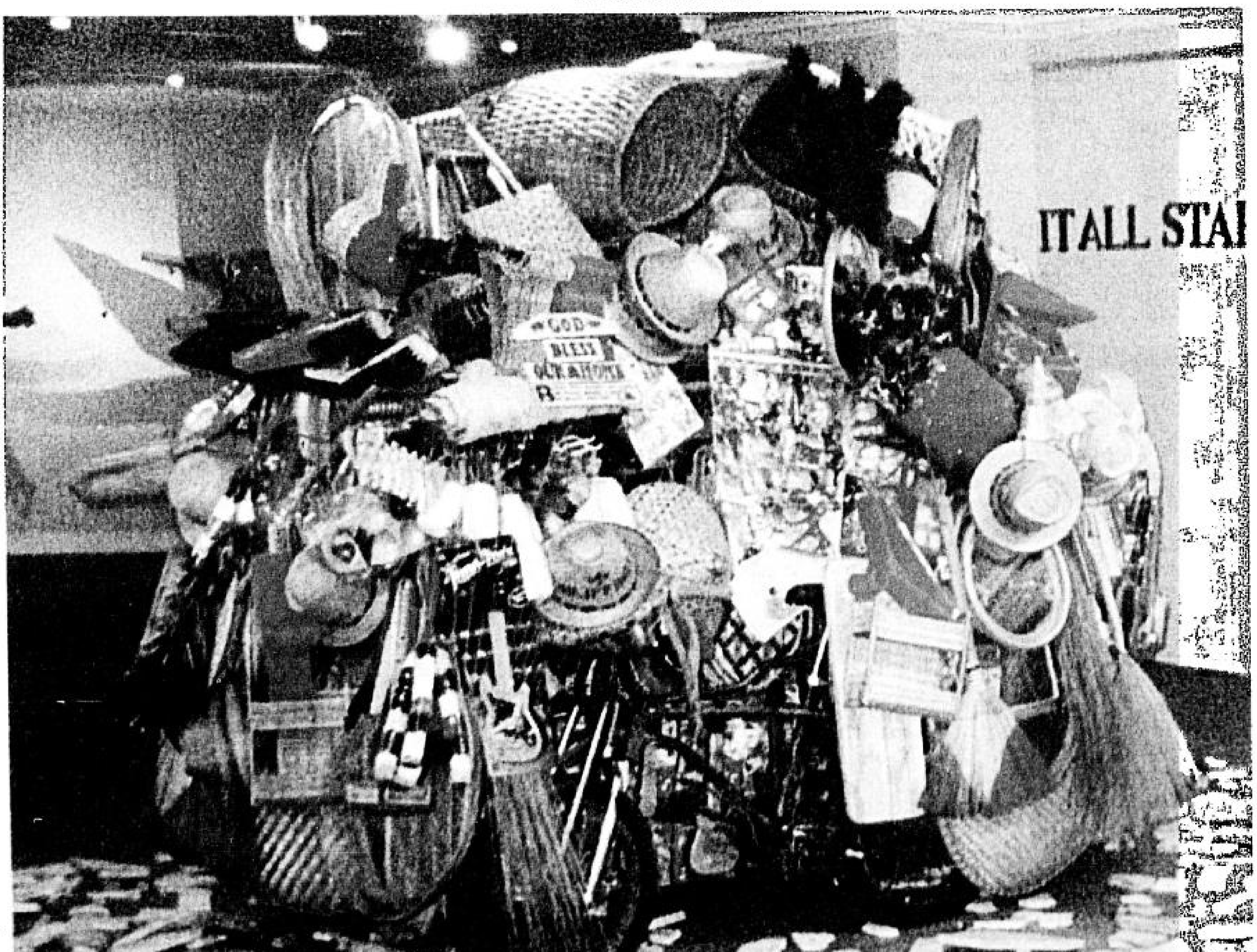
Though artists in their own right, Fred and Isabel are anything but the types who like to lock themselves up in a studio for weeks on end. "When you collaborate, you demystify art and the artist, you make ordinary people realize that they too can create art," says Fred. "That's what we hope to revive though the medium of installations: the interdependence and *bayanihan* spirit in our culture. Collaborations and installations have always been a part of our culture anyway. A fiesta, for instance, is a community-based installation." As for Isabel, "performance art" these days takes the form of haggling with *tinderas* at the local *palengke* to picking out the perfect string beans. "*Mas doon ka nga nakaka*-gather *ng* ideas!" she insists of the market. "You encounter more when you talk to the vendors there. Everything is natural."

Isabel with children Miguel, Diego, Amihan, Leon and Aniway at home in Makiling

On a personal note, the collaboration between the Aquilizans began years ago when Fred, then a rugged and confident college punk, took a liking to his cousin's neighbor Isabel, a pretty high schooler who sang and acted in community fund-raisers. "He just knocked on my door," frowns Isabel, who only remembered him as "aggressive" and "*madumi.*" "*Kapal, ano?* These artists *talaga*. He introduced himself, and asked if he could visit." The two maintained an on-again, off-again relationship until Isabel found herself slowly endeared to the artist. "*Napaka*-persevering *kasi*," she smiles. "*Walang takot.*" "Our minds work in the same way," says Fred, who, early on, identified and appreciated Isabel's artistic side. The illness and death of Fred's father coupled with his indecision attack on what to study saw the two finish college together in 1986, and marry a year after that. Today, 40-year-old Fred, 35-year-old Isabel and their three young boys and two girls reside in Mt. Makiling, Los Baños, Laguna.

Intriguing installations about the home may be their art, but Alfredo and Isabel Aquilizan's finest work is still their grounded, dynamic marriage

Fred as an NYC student in 1986



A collaborative effort by the couple, "It All Started on the Way to the Market"

While the couple has gone through its fair share of rough spots, their artistic projects plus the fact that "our relationship has also become a medium" explain why the Aquilizans continue to endure the travails of domesticity. "I think we've reached a point where we've come to respect each other's individuality and privacy," muses Fred, the more laid-back of the two. As such, the artists are in the process of enjoying things outside of the tight bond. Fred has started painting again, and Isabel is raring to initiate a singing career. Of course, nothing beats their best collaboration to date.

"Our art-making has achieved levels that we never imagined," assesses Fred of what their 15-year-and-counting partnership has produced. "In a way, *nabago rin namin yung takbo ng pag*-create *ng* art. *Nagkaroon ng* depth." "For me," says an obviously touched Isabel, "he's taught me how to value myself. You know, a lot of my students think that I am a battered wife only on the basis of Fred's physicality! But he is the opposite of what they think. He's a very gentle, loving person. And because of him, *mas lalo akong nag*-bloom. *Mas lalo akong nag*-glow within myself."

"Crafting Economies" runs until March 17 at the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

Seen on TV

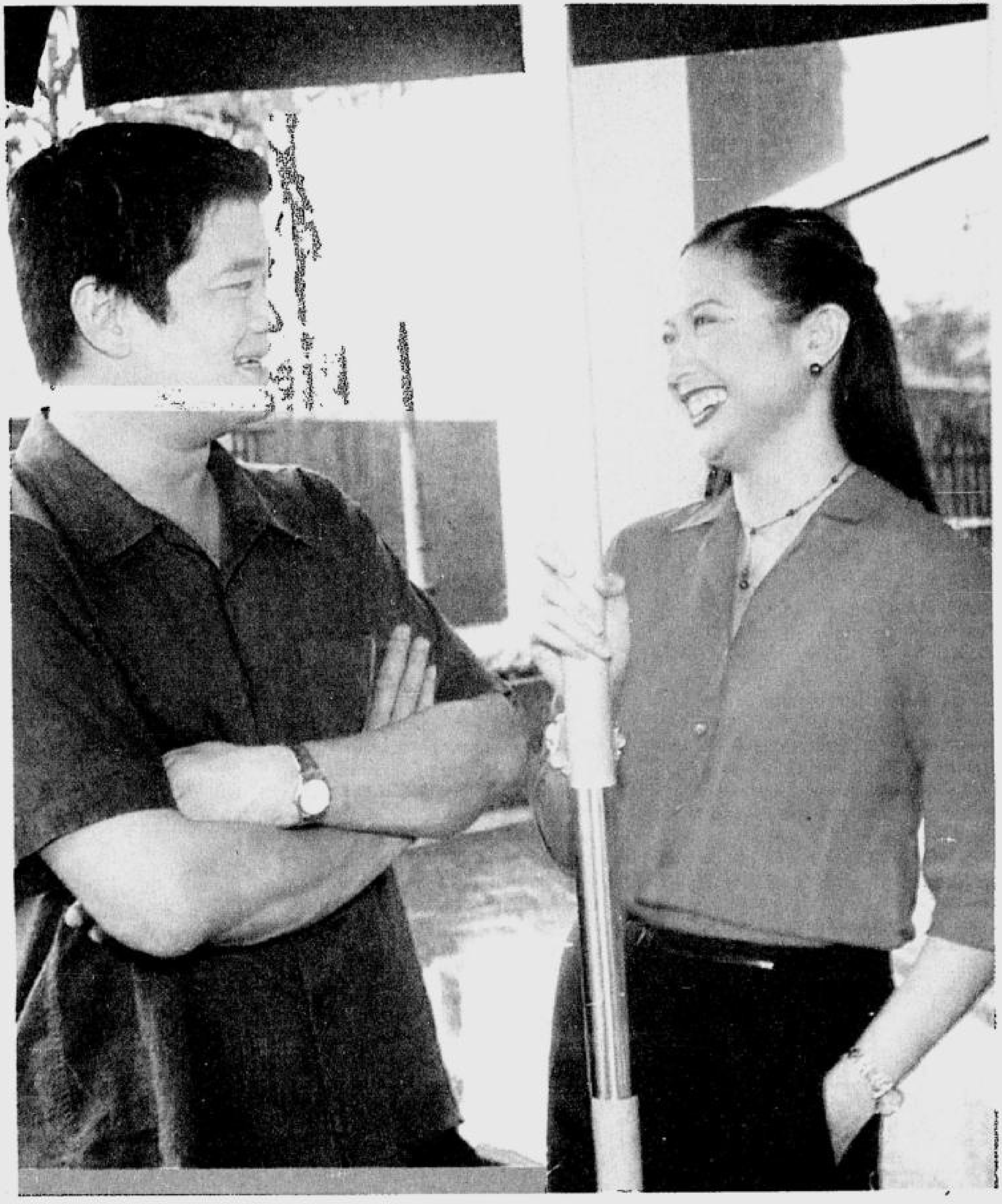
By Tinna [illegible] Bonifacio

[illegible]

[illegible]

Perfect Partners

BETOY JOHNSON



WHEN he says, "I don't believe in Valentine's Day—it's too commercialized," you're inclined to dismiss him as a typical man who couldn't care less about what's important to a girl.

But Julius Babao is actually quite a softie. He cries whenever he hears the song "The Way You Look Tonight," which was playing in the background when he proposed to real-life girlfriend and "Talk TV" co-host Tintin Bersola. (The wedding will be sometime next year, with Senators Noli de Castro and Loren Legarda, former colleagues at ABS-CBN, among the principal sponsors).

And while most men will blow their fortune on an engagement ring, Julius didn't—he has spent the last two years (including a year of what he calls "intensive thinking and planning") building a two-bedroom house for them to move into after the wedding.

But Julius also has an impulsive side. The man nearly blew thousands of pesos on a Salvador Dali lithograph that, he learned through the Internet, might possibly be a fake. He bought a BMW (which he still drives) after seeing a newspaper ad offering it for less than its usual price. The reason he wanted that particular BMW? "Because Pierce Brosnan drives the same one in his James Bond movies," says Tintin. "He's the impulsive one, the risk-taker. And he feels that he's the twin of James Bond."

Aside from being a Bond fan whose biggest dream is to own a Brioni suit just like Brosnan's, Julius is also an avid collector of Star Wars memorabilia. He was thrilled to discover that this writer's cell phone had the Imperial March (the music that plays whenever Darth Vader appears onscreen) ring tone and begged us to send it to him.

Tintin, on the other hand, says she spends her money on "plants, furniture, and things for the home." And, Julius adds, "shoes—her biggest dream is to own a pair of Manolo Blahniks!"

SIM caught up with the pair one afternoon and, over cups of coffee, talked more about their perfect partnership.

SIM: How did the two of you meet?

JULIUS: We met at UP, when we were both studying at the College of Mass Communications. We were both Film majors, *pero hindi kami madalas magkasama*. She had a different boyfriend then, *na mukhang* hippie. *(Laughs)*

TINTIN: You didn't look like that before. Long hair *pa 'yan.* *(Laughs).*

SIM: How long ago was that?

JULIUS: Five years. We've been together for five years.

TINTIN: Well, almost five years!

SIM: Are you going to celebrate Valentine's Day? Last year, how did you celebrate?

JULIUS: We're not a typical couple. We don't usually celebrate—at the most, we just go out for dinner. We don't like crowds.

TINTIN: I remember something funny that happened last year. It was Valentine's Day, and we still had our morning show, *"Alas Singko y Medya."* So by the time we left the studio, it was already past 2 p.m. We were driving down Katipunan Avenue looking for a place to eat. We went to The Barn, and when we walked into the place, *walang katao-tao!* We had the whole place to ourselves, which was perfect. When we sat down, the chef asked us: "Are you ordering the Valentine special?" When the food arrived, we were surprised. *Ang ganda ng* presentation. I was so happy, that I actually wrote the chef a thank you note!

SIM: The two of you are together on "Talk TV" everyday. I'm sure you see each other on weekends, too. Doesn't that get tiresome? How do you keep the relationship interesting, despite being together so much?

JULIUS: We have a rule that work is different from our personal lives. We don't let one encroach on the other, and vice-versa. As for keeping the relationship interesting, we always travel. It adds spice to the relationship, discovering new places together.

TINTIN: We've been to the Holy Land three times, Rome twice, and to Madrid, Australia, New Zealand and the US. We always look forward to traveling each year.

SIM: What other things do you like to do together, besides traveling?

JULIUS: Movies! The last movies we watched were "Zoolander" and "American *Adobo*." Me, I don't really like Tagalog movies. *Si* Tintin *naman*, Sharon Cuneta fan *'yan.* Her favorite movie is *"Sana'y Wala Nang Wakas."*

TINTIN: Do you know that when I was in high school, I didn't watch any of those canned TV shows? I didn't know what "Moonlighting" was, or who was in it. Sharon Cuneta movies *ang pinapanood ko.*

JULIUS: We also like going out of town, and visiting art galleries. But this Tintin has a KJ habit. When we're out with friends, *tutulugan ka!* One time, we went to Boston Gallery...

TINTIN: *Hoy, huwag mo ngang ikuwento yan, nakakahiya!* (Don't talk about that, it's embarrassing!)

JULIUS: One time we were at Boston Gallery. *Maya-maya, paglingon ko, wala na si* Tintin. When I went out to the car, I found her there, asleep!

TINTIN: That's how I am, *Tulog* Queen! I don't like crowds that much, especially at art exhibits because you can't appreciate art if there are too many people. *Si* Julius *naman*, he's a people person and he enjoys mingling. *Ako*, when it gets too much for me, I sleep in the car. I'm always like that. Feeling *ko nga*, I have a sleep disorder.

Julius and Tintin envision a life together worthy of smiles

> *Even if he's a sociable techie and she sleeps all the time, broadcasters and real-life sweethearts Tintin Bersola and Julius Babao get along just fine – and have their future life together all planned out*

SIM: How else are your personalities different?

TINTIN: Julius is a risk-taker; impulsive *yan.* Me, I'm a good budgeter by circumstance. My parents separated when I was still in college, so I learned to do all these things.

JULIUS: She's sending someone to school—and she's still amortizing her own condo.

TINTIN: Yes, I take care of everything in the house. Even with Julius, I'm the one who reminds him about his bills.

JULIUS: She's my manager and my secretary. She reminds me if I have meetings. She even negotiates my talent fees for me sometimes. *Ako kasi*, I'm not comfortable with negotiating.

TINTIN: Another difference between us is that Julius is a techie. He's a gadget guy. He's the one who always upgrades our phones. *(Julius has a 7110 and talks longingly about trading it in for a Nokia Communicator 9210, while Tintin sticks to her old and trusty 3210).* He was the first to buy a Palm Pilot, while I have *(she whips it out with a flourish)* notebook and ballpen!

JULIUS: If I'm obsessed with gadgets, Tintin is obsessed with documenting things. She must be the single biggest consumer of film in the Philippines, that is, aside from her mom. Do you know that since we started "Talk TV," she recorded every episode on VHS? *At lahat ng* guests *namin*, *may* picture *na kasama siya,* and all those pictures, she keeps in albums. Every time we travel and we see a landmark, she insists on getting down to have her picture taken. She even saves everything, from the baggage tags to the boarding passes, and she keeps them in an album. Tintin is a tame version of her mother. Tintin's other biggest dream is to land a sponsorship agreement with a company that makes film!

SIM: Tintin, you live alone. Does that mean you cook?

TINTIN: I'd like to, but unfortunately, I have no time, although sometimes I cook pasta.

JULIUS: Yes, but her sauce comes from a can!

SIM: Is that okay with you, Julius? That Tintin isn't exactly housewife material as far as cooking is concerned?

JULIUS: Hahahaha! Yes, of course. I'm not an old-fashioned guy who's looking for someone who can cook for me.

SIM: Exactly when are you planning on getting married?

TINTIN: We'd love to, but we both still have a lot of responsibilities to our respective families. *Ako nga*, I'm still paying for my own condo, *hinuhulug-hulugan ko pa.* I have about three more years to go.

JULIUS: But it will happen any time soon.

TINTIN: Really? *(Smiles)*

JULIUS: Yes. Maybe next year. So many are offering to be Ninong and Ninang, *ang* sure *lang ay sina* Noli at Loren. The only reason we haven't gotten married is that we both have other bigger priorities. But definitely, we will be getting married, maybe sometime next year.

SIM: If you are getting married, why isn't Tintin wearing a ring?

JULIUS: I haven't bought her a ring because I'm saving up for something more important. It's so important, it takes a lot of planning and thinking.

SIM: What is it?

TINTIN: *Oo nga,* what is it? *(Smiles jokingly)*

JULIUS: She knows what it is. It's our house, the one we're going to move into after the wedding. *Ang gusto ko kasi*, we'll already have a house. I have an architect friend who did the initial plans, and we're going to start building soon. It's just a small house, two bedrooms and a loft. But we designed it around a modern theme.

SIM: How does it make you feel, Tintin, to know about the house?

TINTIN: Special *siyempre.* I'm just worried that not everyone will understand about the wedding.

SIM: What do you mean?

JULIUS: We want to make it really simple and invite just close friends and family. It's not that we don't want to invite certain people; we're just being practical.

TINTIN: I just hope the people we don't get to invite will understand.

SIM: But like it or not, you are both showbiz personalities, and people, especially your fans, will expect to be part of the most important day of your lives.

TINTIN: Maybe we can just have a small reception after the wedding. We could even have it on "Talk TV."

JULIUS: *Oo nga, ano?*

Love

...from page 3

"It can be quite awkward for a man because we're not used to it," says Abinales, adding that men might not find the courage to turn down a woman. Quips Ferrer: "But men found other excuses, like telling the woman that they're too committed to the movement, or that the relationship won't work because one is deployed in the countryside and the other in the city, and so on."

Mariano, who has since left the movement to do NGO work on development policies, admits that there were a significant number of violations notwithstanding the disciplinary actions (DA) that range from stern warnings to suspension or expulsion from the Party.

As an unwilling implementor of the rules, he notes that there was no need to monitor compliance as the violators themselves readily admitted to the breach because of guilt feelings. "People accepted the guidelines but used creative ways or *abilidad* to go around the rules."

Abinales, who was once meted out disciplinary action for going courting right after a break-up and without the collective's permission, admits to being creative himself in dealing with the guidelines. "You either made *palusot* (excuses) or you didn't tell your P.O. (political officer) about your misdemeanor," he laughs. "Frankly, it cramped my style," he says of the draft document.

What was ironic, he notes, was that "the guidelines were drafted so that cadres won't get distracted by puerile matters of the heart. What happened was that they ended up discussing sexual affairs most of the time. It came to a point that the document 'On Marriage' had an admonition against spending too much time discussing the relatively minor issue of sex and marriage as compared to the major political issues that the Party faces."

The guidelines came at a very interesting period, he adds. "It was the early '70s and everybody was trying to figure out the draft guidelines because in terms of political consciousness, everything was very rigid. You couldn't watch a movie in English, eat hamburger at Tropical Hut or drink Coke. *Dapat Pop Cola.* Everything then was accepted as part of this cold remolding of our consciousness from being petty bourgeois to *masa.* And that applied even to relationships. Considered *burgis yung* holding hands or petting at the UP lagoon."

With the DA in place, there was "excessive vigilance" among comrades to uphold the rules and "an inquisitorial air similar to the surveillance conducted by suspicious nuns and priests in Catholic girls' or boys' schools." At the same time, notes Abinales, there was the pull of hormones battling it out with the pull of ideology. "You're 18, you're very horny, but you're also aware of the need to overthrow the Marcos regime. Between ideology and hormones, ideology would win. Your friends are being killed, you're being attacked, you're planning meetings and rallies and you're getting distracted by love. Eventually you become guilty and abandon it."

A lot of relationships succumbed to the pressures of both the revolutionary struggle and the stringent guidelines, he reveals, "but to be fair, since the whole collective discussed your love affair, you were also guided in the process. Now that I'm married to an American, I appreciate the idea of group therapy, which was what we had during those collective discussions of sex and love."

Despite the dissent and disagreements, the draft has endured long enough to become Party policy, albeit with some changes, the most significant being the acceptance of homosexuality. "I've been alerted to the idea that the CPP now approves of gay relationships, leading to the formation of the national democratic organization Pro-Gay," says Abinales.

Indeed, adds Julie, same-sex marriages are now accepted within the movement. The grounds for divorce have been expanded as well to include incompatibility. The much-lamented prohibition on premarital sex, however, remains, "although it is no longer a question of imposing disciplinary actions on violators." Instead, reveals this active Party member, the transgression is discussed and criticism leveled at the violator. "The Party now considers premarital sex—which is still defined as actual intercourse before marriage—on different levels. How ready is the couple? Will this lead to unplanned pregnancy?" In all, she sums up, "the guidelines have passed through a process of maturation to reflect needed changes."

Recalling the original guidelines these days is apt to prompt a chuckle as well as a slew of ingenious stories about how *abilidad,* this very Pinoy trait of circling the rules, won the day for Leftist lovers despite the collective eyes and ears that followed them everywhere. Well, after all, laughs Ferrer, "Big Brother wasn't always around." "Yeah," agrees Abinales, "Big Brother had other meetings and rallies to attend to."

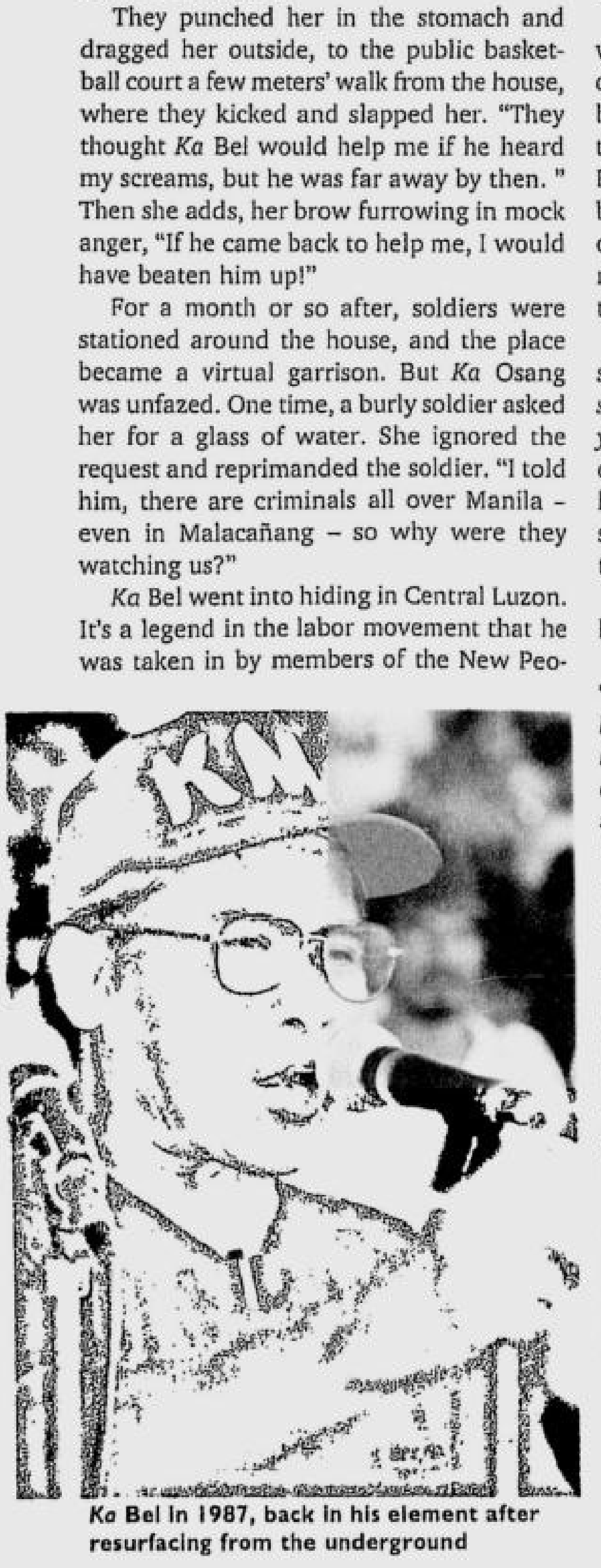
...from page 8

self through a rough hole made in the wall. Then his guards noticed the inordinately long time *Ka* Bel was taking. They broke down the toilet door and saw the gaping hole. They quickly turned on *Ka* Osang and began beating her.

They punched her in the stomach and dragged her outside, to the public basketball court a few meters' walk from the house, where they kicked and slapped her. "They thought *Ka* Bel would help me if he heard my screams, but he was far away by then." Then she adds, her brow furrowing in mock anger, "If he came back to help me, I would have beaten him up!"

For a month or so after, soldiers were stationed around the house, and the place became a virtual garrison. But *Ka* Osang was unfazed. One time, a burly soldier asked her for a glass of water. She ignored the request and reprimanded the soldier. "I told him, there are criminals all over Manila – even in Malacañang – so why were they watching us?"

Ka Bel went into hiding in Central Luzon. It's a legend in the labor movement that he was taken in by members of the New People's Army, who heard of his escape. For two years, he hid among the rebels and took the *nom de guerre* "*Ka* Anto" after one of the fathers of the labor movement, Crisanto Evangelista. But instead of an armalite, *Ka* Anto carried a portable typewriter.



Ka Bel in 1987, back in his element after resurfacing from the underground

Every three to five months, *Ka* Osang would visit her husband. It was a complicated process, and very tiring. She went on her regular pilgrimage to Central Luzon until Marcos was ousted by People Power on February 25, 1986. When Corazon Aquino became president, she ordered the release of all political prisoners, and in particular mentioned *Ka* Bel. *Ka* Osang herself went to take her husband home.

On hindsight, *Ka* Osang wonders where she got her strength. "*Siguro dahil lagi akong sabik makita siya kaya di ko na pinansin yung pagod,*" (Maybe because I was always eager to see him, so I didn't mind the exhaustion,) she says. But more importantly, she adds, she was buoyed by the knowledge that her husband was an inspiration to many.

And what does *Ka* Bel have to say about his wife?

He recites a few lines from the song "*Kasama*" by Gary Granada: "*Hindi lang siya kaibigan, di lang siya kapatid. Di lang kasintahan, o kaisang-dibdib. Di lang siya asawa, o inang uliran. Siya'y aking kasama, sa mapagpalayang kilusan.*" (She's not just a friend, a sister, a lover, wife or exemplary mother. She's my comrade in the fight for freedom.)

In private, they call each other "Ma" and "Daddy." He says *Ka* Osang has a sharp tongue and is strict with the children, but the minute they need her she drops everything, even to the point of depriving herself. A grandson, 17-year old Cris, agrees. "*Lola* sermons, *Lolo* is quiet. But we're spoiled by both of them," he says in Pilipino.

Ka Bel says he is well taken care of. *Ka* Osang insists on preparing his clothes every morning, whether it's the round-collar shirts he wears to rallies or the *barong Tagalog* for Congress. "I know when she's the one who washed my clothes," he notes. "It feels different."

She is also his chief confidante. He shares with her the details of his day – the rallies he marched in, the general mass assemblies of the local unions he has attended, and lately, the Congress committee meetings and other legislative functions he goes to.

Proof of the solidity of *Ka* Bel and *Ka* Osang's marriage is their 10 children, who, in turn, have given them 27 grandchildren. Oh, *Ka* Osang says cheekily, there were times, when *Ka* Bel was younger, when he did a bit of fooling around, but he always returned to her. That was when the first three children were very young, and *Ka* Bel and *Ka* Osang had frequent quarrels. "But he regretted it, nag-*cursillo pa*!"

Ka Bel also has a son with another woman, Crispin Beltran Jr., who's now 35. "*Noong panahon na yun, naging seryoso ang problema namin. Pero wala namang gusot na hindi naaayos.*" (In those days, we had serious problems. But there's no problem that can't be ironed out.) *Ka* Osang considers Crispin Jr. like one of her own. "I never thought of it as the boy's fault." They don't like going to movies – more often, they just go to Bulacan and visit relatives. Every two years or so, they travel to Albay. Still very much like the 16-year-old he rescued 45 years ago, *Ka* Osang becomes petulant when *Ka* Bel breaks his promises.

"Sometimes he's so busy, we can't go to Bulacan," she pouts. "But I understand. I just miss him. I have to share him with so many people, including the laborers and the country."

End Page

By Jonathan Best

Once More to Civilize and Christianize?

In light of this nation's long struggle for complete sovereignty, inviting the American military back into the country seems like a risky proposition. It is very hard for even Washington to rein in the generals once they start a foreign mission and the bullets start to fly

ALMOST exactly 100 years before the attack on the World Trade Center in New York, another violent attack took place in the United States. While greeting visitors at the Buffalo World's Fair on September 6, 1901 President McKinley was shot twice by an Eastern European "anarchist," a term used for that era's dreaded terrorists. He died a week later on September 14 and his Vice President "Rough Rider" Teddy Roosevelt, hero of the Spanish American War, succeeded him. Few Americans today would remember the tragic details of McKinley's assassination.

American soldiers fighting in Mindanao 100 years ago

McKinley will be remembered forever by Philippine historians as the American President who ordered Admiral George Dewey and the American Pacific Fleet to sail into Manila Bay on May 1, 1898. General Arthur MacArthur followed three months later with two battalions of American soldiers and occupied Manila on August 12. The United States rationalized this invasion as justified retaliation for the mysterious explosion and sinking of the American battleship "Maine" in Havana Harbor on February 15, 1898. This was another act of "terrorism" which riveted the American people. The battle cry "Remember the Maine" still echoes down the corridors of American history, although it is now believed the explosion was actually caused by a defective boiler.

It was McKinley who made the final decision for the United States to unilaterally take possession of the Philippines at the end of the Spanish American War. This precipitated the long and bloody Philippine American War with Emilio Aguinaldo's first Philippine Republic and with the Muslims in the southern Philippines.

When President McKinley was asked in 1899 how he came to his momentous decision to annex the Philippines, one which flew in the face of America's Bill of Rights, its Constitution and anti-colonial traditions, he told a melodramatic and rather contrived story to a group of pious visitors. He announced having fallen to his knees one night in the White House asking God for divine guidance. The Lord Almighty was only too quick to respond and directed McKinley "to educate the Filipinos, and uplift and civilize and Christianize them."

Thus started the American occupation of the Philippines and a renewed struggle for independence. From the very first there were bitter fights between American civilian policy makers and the military commanders in the field. By 1901 when William Howard Taft took his oath as the first civilian American Governor General, he was no longer on speaking terms with MacArthur. The military men enjoyed their role as the new colonial satraps, ruling the Philippines by martial law, and they were loathe to give up their privileges and political power. They fondly referred to these years as their "Empire Days."

Liberal American senators and the press demanded investigations of military excesses. There were reports of financial scandals, heavy drinking and womanizing by the men, and much more serious instances of massacres of Filipinos. There were documented atrocities in Batangas, and in Samar and later in Jolo where whole communities were wiped out.

American military luminaries such as Gen. Leonard Wood and "Black Jack" Pershing led one bloody campaign after another against the Muslims without much success. Eventually peace was established, largely through negotiations. The Sultan of Jolo was paid a small allowance directly by the United States government, allowed to have his multiple wives and even keep slaves until the 1920s. Popular songs were written about him, and he was pampered and treated like a mini-head of state. Zamboanga and Jolo became tourist destinations for cruise ships in the decades before World War II. Other Datus in Mindanao were settled in their respective districts, given medals and allowed to live pretty much as they wanted.

It took 48 years of American colonial occupation and the horrors of World War II before the Philippines finally achieved national independence in 1946. This was not achieved in 1898 despite the recent "Centennial" hoopla, which studiously avoided dealing with the American military occupation. It took another 45 years to pry loose the last American military base in 1991. In light of this nation's long struggle for complete sovereignty, inviting the American military back into the country seems like a risky proposition. It is very hard for even Washington to rein in the generals once they start a foreign mission and the bullets start to fly.

Using American financial aid, intelligence and sophisticated weapons to establish law and order in the southern Philippines may be a good idea if it goes hand in hand with social and economic development projects. The Abu Sayyaf kidnappers and other assorted bandits, drug lords, vigilantes and coercive Christian and Islamic missionaries should have been stamped out long ago. Peace with social justice would very quickly turn Mindanao into one of the richest and most productive regions of the country.

Filipinos have fought and died courageously for national independence and alongside their allies in foreign wars. To say this nation with a population of over 78 million cannot raise an army capable of defeating a few hundred "bandits" is an insult to the Philippines' proud history. As an American resident of the Philippines, I am horrified by the idea of American soldiers coming here to shoot Filipinos, any Filipino, anywhere in the Philippines. If China invades, fine, call in the US Marines, but until that happens this is a job for the Filipino government. The possibilities for political mischief and escalating violence throughout the country are much too high.

Comments welcome at endpage2000@hotmail.com

This Week

Art

New Works, an exhibit of large acrylic paintings on canvas and small works of collage on paper by Jon Cuyson until Feb. 15 at Galleria Duemila, 4/F, SM Megamall A.

Recent Works, an exhibit of abstracts by Joseph Lofranco at the Red Dot Gallery, G/F, Sunrise Terrace Condominium, 100 Perea St., Legaspi Village, Makati City until Feb. 15. For details, call 816-2877.

World Press Photo 2001, an exhibit of award winning photographs showcasing historical documents of the world's main events in 2000 at the Metropolitan Museum of Manila until Feb. 17. For details, call 521-1517.

Hilagyo, a pre-departure exhibit of the works of Filipino contemporary artists bound for Guam, until Feb. 23 at the GSIS Museum of Art, Financial Center, Pasay City.

Sa Edsa, an exhibit of works in acrylic and oil on canvas inspired by People Power II by Australian artist Martin Bridgman at the Australia Centre, 104 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City until Feb. 22.

Music

Simply Stella, a free Valentine show featuring Stella Ruiz on Feb. 14 at the Ultra Bykes Café, Pasong Tamo, Makati. It will have a second run at the same venue on Feb 16 with Jay Cayuca as special guest. For inquiries, call 896-7177.

CrankMusicRelief presents **LoveLiesBleeding** featuring some of our top local gothic and indie bands Candy Audio Line, Skies of Ember, down boy down, The Late Isabel, Inconnu Ictus, VT-XXXXIII, 5 Wounds to Enter, nichrome and Milkshake on Feb. 16 at Freedom Bar, Anonas, Cubao, QC. Gig starts at 8 p.m. For ticket inquiries, text Anne at 0917-6053545.

The Hunks talk and sing about love in a concert billed as **Hunks: First Mo? – The "Virgin" Valentine Concert** on Feb. 14, 8 p.m. at the Folk Arts Theater. Tickets available at the JLF office (634-7773, 638-4243 to 44) and at all Ticketworld outlets (891-5610).

It's Magic, a Valentine concert by Aiza Seguerra on Feb. 14, 8:30 p.m. at Crossroad '77, Mother Ignacia St., cor. Scout Reyes, Diliman, QC. For details, call Ticketnet at 911-5555 and 373-0680.

The MCO Foundation presents a post-Valentine concert featuring the **Manila Flute Choir** on Feb. 15, 7:30 p.m. at the Equitable PCI Bank's Francisco Santiago Hall. Some of the members of the ensemble are Eric Barcelo, Tony Maigue, Ray Sison, David Johnson and Jay Gomez. For inquiries, call 818-1403 or 813-3849.

Jolina's Luv Alert, a benefit concert featuring Jolina Magdangal and the talents of Voice Academy of the Philippines in Marikina, Feb. 17, 6 p.m. at the Riverbanks Center, Marikina City. Tickets available at the Riverbanks Bayad Center or call 948-9794.

Cinema

Pola X, a haunting and passionate story about a man named Pierre whose life is thrown into a tailspin when he discovers that the mysterious woman in his dreams is his sister Isabelle, who has been kept secret from him by his own mother, starring Gerard Depardieu, Catherine Deneuve and Katerina Golubeva, Feb. 13, 8 p.m. at Alliance Francaise de Manille, 209 Nicanor Garcia St., Bel-Air II, Makati City. Free admission.

Onstage

***Kababaihan*, A Gala Benefit Performance of The Vagina Monologues,** an evening of music, theater, dance, visuals and testimonies to help end violence towards women featuring over 70 Filipino women artists on Feb. 23, 8 p.m. at the Folk Arts Theater. Monique Wilson will grace other Philippine Vday events in Cagayan de Oro City on Feb. 15 and Cebu City on Feb. 17 where she will do a monologue onstage. For tickets, call 896-6695 and 896-5497.

Luna: Isang Romansang Aswang, a melodramatic comedy written by Rody Vera, will be staged by the Sining-Lahi Poly Repertory on Feb. 11-16 at 10:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. at the Claro M. Recto Auditorium, PUP Main Campus, Sta. Mesa, Manila. Free admission.

Ang Pagpapaamo sa Maldita, Tanghalang Ateneo's version of Shakespeare's "Taming of the Shrew," Feb. 13 and 14 at 7 p.m., Feb. 16 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. and Feb. 17 at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. at the Ateneo's Irwin Theater. Shows are also scheduled at the Subic Bay Arts Center on March 1-3.

Ateneo High School's Dulaang Sibol presents Onofre Pagsanghan's ***Sinta!*** and William Shakespeare's **Hamlet** this February. Showdates for "Sinta!" are Feb. 13, 14, 20, 21, 27, and 28 at 7:30 p.m. "Hamlet" showdates are on Feb. 15, 16, 22, 23, and March 8 and 9 at 6:30 p.m., and matinees are available upon arrangement on Saturday mornings and afternoons. For inquiries, call 0917-8135195 or e-mail sibol02@yahoo.com.

Dulaang Unibersidad ng Pilipinas presents ***Hibik at Himagsik nina* Victoria Lactaw** by Magsaysay Awardee Bienvenido Lumbera with original songs by Lucien Letaba. The play revolves around a group of extraordinary Filipinas who struggled against oppression during the Philippine-American war. It will run from Feb. 13 to March 3 at the Wilfrido Ma. Guerrero Theater, 2nd floor Palma Hall, UP Diliman, QC. For inquiries, call 926-1349 or e-mail dulaangup@yahoo.com.

Atbp

Let your kids explore the wonderful world around them through **12 interactive workshops** that will expose them to art, shadow play, science magic, sports kinetics and other stimulating activities to be held once a month at the Learning Links Center (Katipunan Avenue, QC). The workshops will be conducted by Anino, Kids at Art, Crayola , Illustrador ng Kabataan, Milo Sports Clininc,and Center for Environmental Awareness and Education. Only 50 slots are available per session that will begin on Feb. 16. For reservations, call 0917-7916541.

The **Escuela sa Museo program** of the Ayala Museum offers the following classes for adults and kids: Decorative Arts (Wednesdays, 2-5 p.m. starting Feb. 13); Beginner's Chinese Painting (Thursdays, 6-9 p.m. beginning Feb. 14); Beginner's Watercolor (Fridays, 6-9 p.m. starting Feb. 15, and Beginner's Oil Painting (Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. starting Feb. 23). For details, call 810-8407.

The Ayala Alabang Village Garden Club will hold its **9th Annual Garden Show** on Feb. 12-20 at the Narra Park, Ayala Alabang Village. Eight groups of Club members will exhibit their own version of the show's theme, Paradise Garden in Ayala Alabang. Fifty concessionaires will display their best plants for sale. Admission is free.

Blooms, Wraps and other Crafts, a craft workshop for the I.woman, SkyCable and Home Cable's exclusive club for women, Feb. 10, 3 p.m. at Fernwood Gardens, 71 Cenacle Drive, Sunville Subdivision, QC. The club is currently accepting members. For details, call 636-7591 and 727-4663.

Caterers, restaurateurs and others planning to start or manage a catering business are invited by ProActive Center for Training in its **Managing a Catering Business seminar-workshop** on Feb. 11-20 at Bedas Restaraunt, C-5, Libis, QC from 1-5 p.m. For details, call 823-4947.

Mount Pinatubo Trek, Feb. 16-17; Biak-na-Bato National Park Clean-Up, Feb 23-24. For details, visit White Mountains, F8 Makati Cinema Square, Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City or call 811-1974 and 811-1271.

Primemovers is organizing an **Arts & Craft activity** for kids and adults on Feb. 10 and 17 to raise funds in building a study and playroom in the ward of a medical center in Quezon City. For details, call 681-6893 or 0917-4095989.

A **seminar on Twin Flames and Soulmates** by Summit Lighthouse Study Group of the Philippines will be held on Feb. 12, 6:30 p.m. at 1 Gen. Antonio cor. Gen. Lim Sts., San Antonio Village, Pasig City. For details, call 631-4052 from 1-8 p.m.

Part of the cast of *Kababaihan*, going onstage at the Folk Arts Theater on Feb. 23

Feature Writing/Writing for Magazines workshop, Feb. 17, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Earthlite, 4/F COD Department Store, Cubao. Fee inclusive of handouts and certificate. For details, call 417-1521 or text 0919-7405199.

The DLWF BookClub of De La Salle University-Manila holds a **book discussion** on "A Life Shaped by Music: Andrea Ofilada Veneracion and the Philippine Madrigal Singers" on Feb. 16, 6-7:30 p.m. at the Afterwords Cafe/Filipino Bookstore, Malate, Manila, with Marjorie Evasco and Antonio Hila as featured writer and critic. For inquiries, call 524-4611 loc. 509 and 532.

***May Kasal sa* Forbes Park**, a wedding fair to be presented by Santuario de San Antonio Parish Center on Feb. 16 and 17. There will be consultants, coordinators and wedding material suppliers who are ready to give free consultations to the future bride and groom. For details, call 820-7879 and 820-1570.

Inner Space Manila will hold a seminar on **The Power of Love,** Feb. 16, 2:30 p.m. at the 3/F CDC Building, 1195 Maria Orosa St., Ermita, Manila. For inquiries, call 521-2015.

The **Paco Catholic School Alumni Batch 85** will hold a general meeting on Feb. 23, 2 p.m. at PCS Alumni Office at Cardinal Sin Building. For inquiries, call Raymond Tirso Gutierrez at 0917-9602549, Hilda Luna (0917-7533580) or Brenda Rivera-Cinco (0919-3254569.

X-manila

Ondine (*Nimfa ng Lawa*), a fairy tale drama by French playwright Jean Giraudoux that tells of the love between Ondine, a water nymph and Hans, a mortal, presented by the Philippine High School for the Arts on Feb. 12-13, 2:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. at the DL Umali Hall, UP Los Baños, Laguna. For tickets, call (049) 536-2862.

Rock-blues-alternative band **Sessionroad** will be performing live in Puerto Princesa City's Hotel Fleuris on Feb. 14 and Kinabuchs Grill and Bar on Feb. 15. The band is expected to play their original hits as well as favorite covers. For details, contact Adventure Specialists, Inc. at (048) 434-4081.

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The Sunday Inquirer Magazine welcomes listings of events in and outside Metro Manila. Please send announcements at least two weeks in advance, and include contact numbers for inquiries on schedules

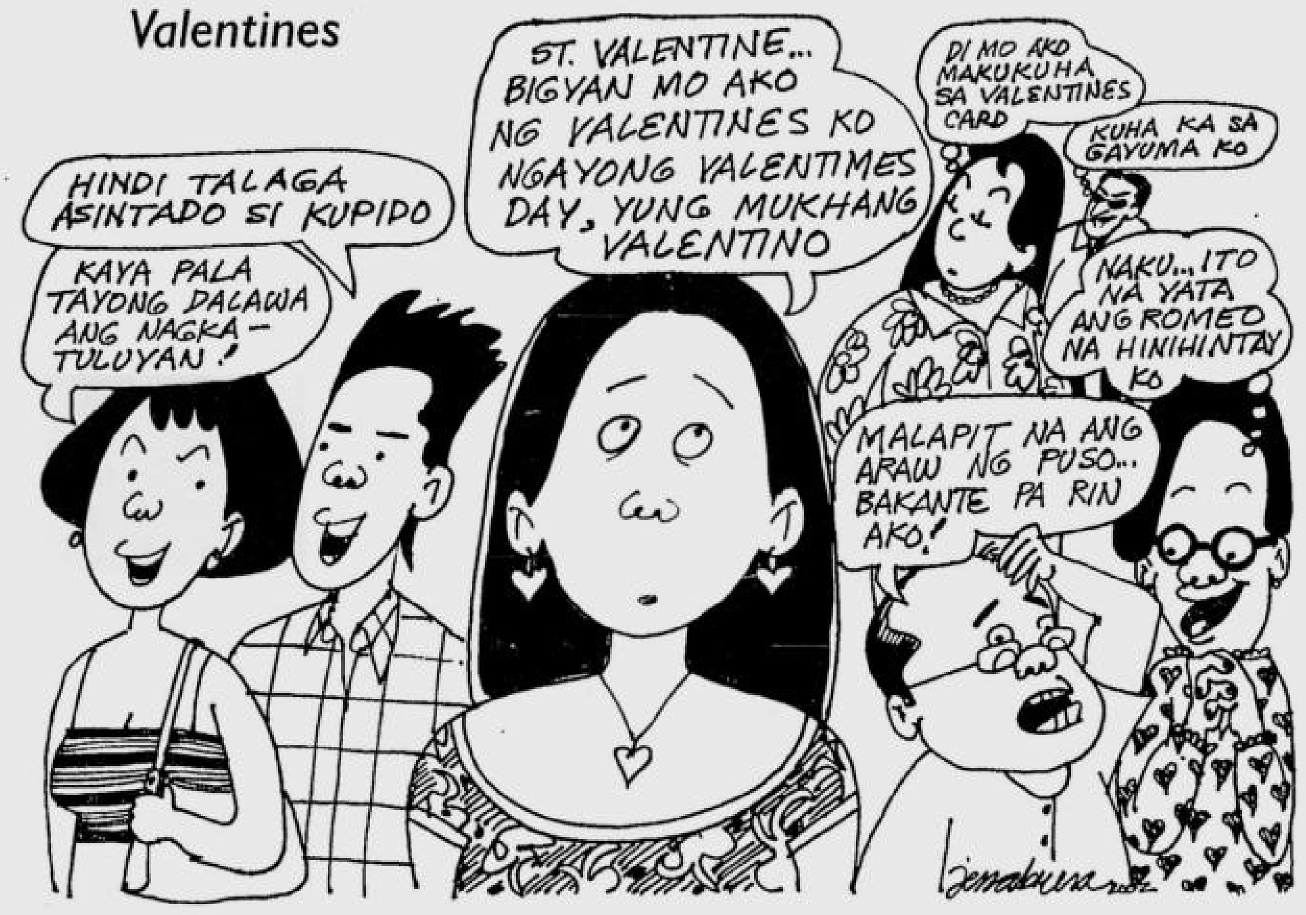
For this week's bands and schedules pls. call

- **Hard Rock Café (893-4662-65)**
- **Virgin Café : QC (926-7982)**
- **'70s Bistro: 46 Anonas St., QC (922-0492)**
- **Hobbit House: 1801 Mabini St., Malate, Manila (521-7604)**
- **Strumm's: El Pueblo, Ortigas (637-3009)**

Pinoy Nga

By *Jess Abrera*

Valentines


HINDI TALAGA ASINTADO SI KUPIDO
KAYA PALA TAYONG DALAWA ANG NAGKA-TULUYAN!
ST. VALENTINE... BIGYAN MO AKO NG VALENTINES KO NGAYONG VALENTIMES DAY, YUNG MUKHANG VALENTINO
DI MO AKO MAKUKUHA SA VALENTINES CARD
KUHA KA SA GAYUMA KO
NAKU...ITO NA YATA ANG ROMEO NA HINIHINTAY KO
MALAPIT NA ANG ARAW NG PUSO... BAKANTE PA RIN AKO!

Poetry

Heartsong

How you snore, my dearest one.
I stay up all night
looking at your short
and stocky body filling
my singular bed
and I'm thinking about
running my fingers through
your white underwear, touching
your tender milky thighs
with my mouth
the way love-
tears well over when my face
is pressed close to your chest,
to every pore of your skin.

I can bear listening to your heart-
song breaking loose,
breaking through the throat's
darkness, soft singing its way
through this listening silence,
filling the brims of my watchful eyes
and rising like a hairline
of breath, or smoke gathering light
unto itself, air sprouting flowers-

The soul caught
off guard, fleeting hint
of brightness, trail of rose-
fragrance floating in mid-air
vanishing into the night sky.

Felino S. Garcia Jr.

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MEMBER PANA Truth in Advertising

Twists of Fate

by Ina Alleco R. Silverio

The Ballad of Bel and Osang

ROGER CARPIO

FOR THE last two decades, the name Crispin B. Beltran has been associated with pickets, demonstrations, strikes and generally anything connected to the militant labor movement. Not surprising, him being the chairman of the labor federation Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU). Since August of 2001, however, he has become known as something else — a party list representative in Congress. As one of three Bayan Muna solons, *Ka* Bel aims to practice the politics of change and nationalism with the same fervor he does as a leader of the parliament of the streets.

But no less interesting than his politics is his personal life. His love life alone is the stuff of movies. Since 1956, *Ka* Bel has been married to the former Rosario Soto of Malolos, Bulacan. There's a joke going around activist circles that *Ka* Bel is a voice who should be heard in the Lower House – but in his own house, it's *Ka* Osang whom he listens to.

This is their love story.

Ka Osang is the product of a broken home. Her parents separated early in her childhood, and as the youngest among three children, she was left to an elderly relative, her father's aunt who lived in Gagalangin, Tondo. *Ka* Osang grew up wanting for nothing – she was given new dresses and jewelry whenever she asked for them. But in exchange, she had to be obedient to the very strict and sometimes unreasonable rules of her grandmother. She was enrolled in La Consolacion, a convent school, and was told never to look at members of the opposite sex. "*Wala talaga akong kaalam-alam sa mga lalaki noon. Si* Papa *lang at yung mga kapatid ko ang pwede kong kausapin* (I didn't know a thing about men then. I could only talk to my Papa and my brothers)."

But the great aunt and the nuns combined were not able to curb the young girl's adventurous spirit. One morning in 1956, the 16-year-old girl cut classes and, together with a few classmates, sneaked into a movie house.

"We watched Nida Blanca *at si* Nestor de Villa. *Pero pag-uwi ko, nalaman na ni Lola ang ginawa ko. Matindi ang naging away,*" (When I got home, my Lola learned what I did. The fight was bad) she says. In turned out that the Mother Superior herself came to the house and told her grandmother what happened. Livid at being lied to, the grandmother slapped *Ka* Osang and told her to leave. And that's what she did.

By 12 noon she was wandering around Quiapo, with nothing but the clothes on her back and the other piece which her grandmother, in her rage, threw at her. In a daze, she entered one of the taxis parked in front of Plaza Miranda. The driver was the man who would be her husband, the then 26-year old Crispin.

"*Napansin kong bata pa siya, at medyo tulala*" (I noticed she was young and slightly dazed) was his first impression. He asked her where she was going. Still reeling from her experience, she answered "*Derecho ka lang,*" (Just go straight.)

They had reached Monumento, but she still hadn't given *Ka* Bel specific directions. He stopped the taxi and turned to face her. *Ka* Osang remembers, "*Naiinis na sya. 'Saan ba talaga tayo?" sabi niya. Ako naman, wala sa sarili, naiyak na. Sinabi ko na yung nangyari.*" (He got irritated. 'Where are we really going?' he asked. As for me, I was beside myself, so I cried. I told him what happened.)

Ka Bel was very sympathetic. She reminded him of his sisters back home in Bacacay, Albay. He looked at her with compassion, and told her that he would drive her home. He also urged her to apologize to her Lola. "*Masamang magtanim ng galit sa kapamilya.*" (It's bad to keep a grudge against one's family.)

Ka Osang shook her head and made a move to get out. By then, night had fallen. *Ka* Bel refused to let her go. "Something bad may happen to you, it's like you don't know anything about the world," he told her in Pilipino. So he took her to his boarding house in San Juan, where he lived with a few others, and told her to stay the night. She stayed there, in *Ka* Bel's room, for three days. "*Kain, tulog, tatanga sa bintana, iiyak, matutulog* (Eat, sleep, look out the window, cry, sleep)."

She was alone most of the time, as *Ka* Bel drove the taxi all day, and at night attended school at the Asian Labor Education Center at the University of the Philippines. When he got home at night, she would already be asleep, on a low, wide bench that served as a bed, while *Ka* Bel had his own bed across the room.

"I didn't know his name, I called him *'Kuya',*" *Ka* Osang recalls, laughing. Did she ever get a crush on him? "I didn't care about him then, I only thought about myself. But he was so thoughtful." It was at that time when *Ka* Bel gave her what she calls his first gift. "A yellow toothbrush in a box. With a 'Good Morning' logo."

Militant labor leader and now Congressman Crispin Beltran has fought for 45 years with the same woman by his side, his wife Osang. This is the remarkable love story of the taxi driver and the runaway girl who have stuck together through imprisonment, life on the run and other domestic disturbances to become one of the grand old couples of the activist movement

On the third day, *Ka* Osang wanted to go home, but not wanting to further inconvenience *Ka* Bel, she left the house without telling him. "When my father found out where I had stayed, he was very angry. They went to *Ka* Bel's house and beat him up. *Wala naman akong magawa* (I couldn't do anything)." *Ka* Bel was taken to the municipal jail in San Juan and accused of abusing a minor. Though it was already the late 1950s, no woman could be caught alone in the company of a man if they weren't sweethearts. It was considered a scandal if they stayed in the same room together. *Ka* Osang stayed in *Ka* Bel's room for three days. In short, they had to get married. *Ka* Bel could have easily refused, but he didn't. He knew that if he refused, *Ka* Osang would be disgraced. "That's why we were married. There was no love then. I really didn't want to, I was so mean to him. But his mind was open. He said love could be learned."

And soon enough, she did learn to love her husband. Initially it was because he was a good provider ("He would give me his earnings from driving the taxi, intact, with the receipt"), but later on it was for himself. She learned to love him for his gentleness with the children, his sense of humor, patience ("When we got together, I didn't know how to do the laundry or cook – he would do it," *Ka* Osang says. "He taught me about running a house"), and inevitably, for his politics, which he had long before embraced. "That was a big thing," she says in Pilipino. "I got to know him not just as a husband, but as a leader of workers. I didn't like it at first – he would always come home late, or sometimes not at all. We were always fighting. But when I understood his work, I learned to have a deep love and respect for him."

But *Ka* Bel was ever patient. He continually explained to her his work, and what it meant. Even in his early 20s, he was already a full-fledged labor leader. He became president of the Yellow Taxi Drivers' Union and the Amalgamated Taxi Drivers Federation from 1955 to 1963. From 1963 to 1972, he was Vice Administrator of the Confederation of Labor Unions of the Philippines, and then vice-president of what would become the Alliance of Nationalist Genuine Labor Organizations (ANGLO), affiliated under the Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU).

Throughout her husband's growing activism, *Ka* Osang strove to be supportive. Her love for *Ka* Bel and the life he had chosen was severely tested, however, in August 1982, when *Ka* Bel was arrested by the military along with other labor leaders.

"We already had 10 children when he was jailed. We didn't have any money except for what our colleagues from KMU gave us. I was selling at the market – fish, slippers. The nuns would give us rice," she says. By then they were living in a squatters' community in Gao, Commonwealth, Quezon City, where they still live to this day. *Ka* Osang would walk from Commonwealth to Crame, where *Ka* Bel was detained.

For two years, *Ka* Osang not only became the mother and father to their children, but also proxy labor leader: She delivered *Ka* Bel's speeches for him in rallies, and became a volunteer for Task Force Detainees of the Philippines (TFDP). She studied acupressure and acupuncture, and applied what she learned whenever she went to Crame and Muntinlupa, where other political detainees were incarcerated. Along with the wives, daughters, and relatives of other political prisoners, *Ka* Osang lobbied for their release.

But the Marcos government was adamant. No way would it release one of its prized captives. *Ka* Bel was then KMU secretary general, and the president, one of the original pillars of the labor movement in the country Felixberto "*Ka* Bert" Olalia was also under custody. In 1984, *Ka* Bert succumbed to the constant torture of the military, as well as the dampness of the jail cells. He died of pneumonia.

"That's when I really became afraid. *Ka* Bel was already having problems with his kidney by then. They didn't want to give him proper medical attention. I didn't want him to follow *Ka* Bert." She took action. In Crame, she consulted with her husband and hatched a plan of escape. *Ka* Bel would come home for a few hours' visit for the supposed birthday of a young nephew, then from there make his way to freedom.

Then she went to *Ka* Bel's lawyers, Attys. Joker Arroyo and Rene Saguisag, and told them not to show up at *Ka* Bel's hearing because he was going to escape. The two men were incredulous — they thought *Ka* Osang was joking. "*Tinanong nila ako, handa ba akong mabugbog? Sagot ko, oo. Handa ba akong mamatay? Oo. Ang mahalaga makalaya siya.*" (They asked me, are you ready to be beaten up? Are you ready to die? I said yes, what was important was that he be freed.)

On the day of the children's party, neighbors and friends came and pretended to celebrate. *Ka* Bel arrived with his guards. Beforehand, he and *Ka* Osang had agreed on a sign: After putting down his second bottle of beer, he would make his move. He downed his second beer ("To fight his fear"). There wasn't a chance to say goodbye. He excused himself under the pretext of having to urinate. When he got to the toilet, he pulled out the piece of loose board and squeezed him-

To page 6